

THE STRANGE REAPPEARANCE OF SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

May 1982

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VICTORY
SPORTS
SERIES

THE Wrestler

*Bob Backlund's Fourth Anniversary
As WWF Champion:*
**THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY
GROWS UP**



when I planned to **retire before**

this is the business that made it possible

Starting with borrowed money, Duraclean gave me the opportunity for financial security... In eight years I sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that

business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

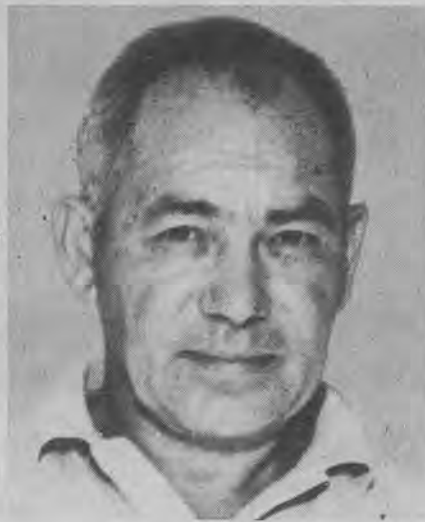
"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only \$2988 starts a Duraclean dealership, and the company will finance the balance of the total \$9987 cash investment.) I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big

fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a

period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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Wrestler^{THE}

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OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—ADRIAN ADONIS
- 2—JESSE VENTURA
- 3—PEDRO MORALES
- 4—GREG VALENTINE
- 5—TONY ATLAS
- 6—KILLER KHAN
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—JIMMY SNUKA
- 9—PAT PATTERSON
- 10—RICK MARTEL

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL

- 1—HULK HOGAN
- 2—TITO SANTANA
- 3—KEN PATERA
- 4—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 5—BARON VON RASCHKE
- 6—SHEIK ADNAN AL-KAISSIE
- 7—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 8—GREG GAGNE
- 9—CRUSHER
- 10—JIM BRUNZELL

MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—TOMMY RICH
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—BOB BACKLUND
- 5—HULK HOGAN
- 6—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—MIL MASCARAS
- 8—MR. WRESTLING II
- 9—PEDRO MORALES
- 10—JUNKYARD DOG



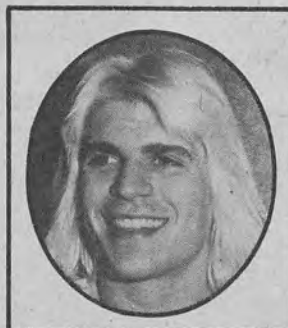
ADRIAN ADONIS



HARLEY RACE



BRUISER



TOMMY RICH

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: RIC FLAIR

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER
- 2—TOMMY RICH
- 3—MR. WRESTLING II
- 4—RODDY PIPER
- 5—BRUISER
- 6—DUSTY RHODES
- 7—HARLEY RACE
- 8—DAVID VON ERICH
- 9—TED DIBIASE
- 10—LES THORNTON

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 2—MR. FUJI & MR. SAITO
- 3—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 4—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 5—SUPER DESTROYER & MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 6—MIKE GEORGE & JUNKYARD DOG
- 7—TONY GAREA & RICK MARTEL
- 8—KEN PATERA & BOBBY DUNCUM
- 9—THE MULLIGANS
- 10—OX BAKER & CARL FERGIE

MOST HATED

- 1—RIC FLAIR
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER
- 3—GREG VALENTINE
- 4—KEN PATERA
- 5—BOB ROOP
- 6—KILLER KHAN
- 7—ADRIAN ADONIS
- 8—KEVIN SULLIVAN
- 9—DAVID VON ERICH
- 10—EDDY MANSFIELD

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PUT UP OR SHUT UP

An Open Letter To Tommy Rich:

Just who do you think you are calling the "Nature Boy" Ric Flair an "insignificant little toad"? Well, I'll tell you one thing, you can't beat that little toad! It's like Dan Shocket said, "You are nothing but wormslime with cockroach shells as brains."

For someone who has held the NWA belt for only five short days, you sure talk big. Well, a little bit of advice from Ric Flair's number-one fan: Put up or shut up, stupid. You really should shut up, because you have nothing to put up.

LISA CLARK
Jesup, GA

CONCERNED FAN

I used to believe the Mid-Atlantic area had some of the best wrestlers and excellent competition, but frankly I have grown concerned about this area.

The so-called "brave" wrestlers like the Anderson brothers, Roddy Piper, and the list can go on and on, are giving this area a bad name. None of them are willing to sign a contract to go against Rick Steamboat, Wahoo McDaniel, or Blackjack Mulligan because they are scared. The decent wrestlers are



NWA champion Ric Flair pushes Tommy Rich's bloody head into the ring apron as the two battle on the arena floor. Reader Lisa Clark does not think Rich has what it takes to defeat Flair.

beginning to get tired of this, and before it's over with, the good wrestlers may have to leave the area in order to get some matches.

I heard Wahoo was at the point of either becoming a rulebreaker or leaving the area. Well, I would much rather see him leave the area than to lower his standards to the lowdown bums of wrestling, no matter how much I hate to see him go.

The Mid-Atlantic area has even gone as far as to give a Cadillac to

the best wrestler. Well, it is getting bad when wrestlers have to be bribed into the area. I can't blame the wrestlers who don't come into the area because they don't want to come here with a bunch of cowards.

When Piper and some of those other rotten wrestlers get out of our area, things will get a lot better.

PATTY SANDERS
West Columbia, SC
(Continued on page 48)



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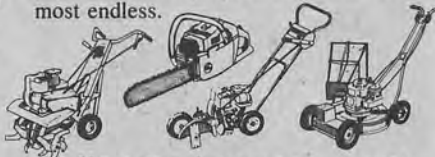
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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

MANAGER JAMES J. DILLON has fired The Spoiler! Dillon made the surprise announcement at a hastily arranged press conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The firing occurred within hours of Spoiler losing his Florida championship to Mr. Wrestling II.

After II won a very controversial decision over Spoiler in Fort Pierce, Florida, the Florida commission held up the belt for two days, until a rematch between II and Spoiler took place in Jacksonville. The popular II won a clear-cut decision and was given the belt. Dillon fired Spoiler on the spot, saying, "Spoiler is a loser. I don't manage losers." Now Dillon is using Hussein "Iron Sheik" Arab, the masked Chang Chung, and Southern champion David Von Erich in his attempt to defeat Wrestling II, the man he calls "the geriatric Eric Embry."

The National Wrestling Alliance has stripped The Anderson brothers of the NWA tag team title. The Alliance took the belts from the brothers because Gene, after suffering a concussion several months ago, has not been able to wrestle. Ole has used Ray Stevens, Buzz Sawyer, and Stan Hansen as Gene's replacement, defending the belts with the substitute partner.



Citing the inactivity of the injured Gene Anderson, the NWA has ruled that he and brother Ole be stripped of the NWA tag team titles and new champions be decided in a national tournament.

But the NWA finally decided it was in the best interests of the association to vacate the title and hold a tournament. The tournament will be held nationally and will take several months. We'll keep you posted.

Adrian Adonis surprised a lot of people in his clash against WWF champion Bob Backlund. Most experts thought Adonis would use a wide array of illegal tactics. But he stunned everyone by trading

(Continued on page 50)

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1. A wet suit is worn snugly, resulting in an isometric effect that can actually add tone to loose muscle tissue. *Shrink Wrap is adjustable so you can put the isometric effect to work for you immediately!*
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Mrs. Mildred C. Cable—Land O'Lakes, Fla.

"I went from a size 20½ dress down to a 12! I tried every method. With Shrink Wrap, the exercise program and a sensible diet, I lost 52 pounds! I lost 8 inches from my waist and 11 inches from my hips! Now, I tell all my friends about the Shrink Wrap System!"



Ms. Loretta Dene Fair—Pontiac, Mich.

"My total inches lost were 34½" off waist and hips! I've been overweight for as long as I can remember. The Shrink Wrap System worked miracles! 18½" off my waist, 16" off my hips, all in only 8 months. Shrink Wrap even helped me to stop overeating and stop snacking. I lost 124 pounds! I'm a new woman!"



James Carlisle—Manager, Karate School of Champions, Wilkesburg, Pa.

"My students used the Shrink Wrap System and literally melted away inches from their waist and hips!"

Helena Smith—Vandalia, Mich.

"I lost 5" off my waist and 5" off my hips! I'm amazed at the way the Shrink Wrap System works!"

Robert N. Nilsen—Mechanicsburg, Pa.

"I lost 9 pounds and 4 inches off my waist in 2 weeks! It's just unbelievable that it took so little time and effort!"

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Dr. J. Lee Briers—New Castle, Delaware

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CORRESPONDENTS Reports



Roddy Piper makes an unsuccessful attempt to finish Rick Steamboat with a sleeperhold. Piper intentionally got himself disqualified when he felt his title slipping away.

ASHEVILLE, NC—*Correspondent:* Chris Todd—The main event featured Mid-Atlantic champion Rowdy Roddy Piper defending his title against Rick Steamboat. The bell rang and immediately Rick flew into action throwing Piper into the ropes trying for a double thrust, but missed. Piper tried to sling Rick into the turnbuckle, but Rick reversed it and whipped Piper into the corner instead. Falling to the canvas, Piper fell prey to two atomic drops, fell out of the ring, and was given an atomic drop onto the announcer's table once again. Piper ran back to his dressing room and retained his title by disqualification.

In other bouts: Jake Roberts

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to : Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

won a Cadillac in a tournament featuring the likes of Terry Taylor, Jay Youngblood, Al Hays, Jimmy Valiant, Billy Robinson, John

Studd, Sgt. Slaughter, and many others.

DAYTON, OH—Correspondent: Todd Jackson—Tommy Rich showed why he is called "Wildfire" as he battled Masked Superstar. Through the first 10 minutes, the match was dead even. Then the masked man locked Rich in the cobra. Tommy broke free and won by disqualification when Superstar flung him over the top rope.

In other bouts: Terry Gordy and Super Destroyer stopped Michael Hayes and Mr. Wrestling II . . . Bob Armstrong beat Ron Bass . . . Jim Garvin stunned The Angel.

MILWAUKEE, WI—Correspondent: Phil Abramoff—The main event pitted Greg Gagne against Nick Bockwinkel in a championship bout for the AWA title. Gagne gained the advantage from the outset with a series of backflips, dropkicks, and shoulder blocks. After about 15 minutes, Gagne snared Bockwinkel in a sleeperhold. Seeing that Bockwinkel was on the brink of losing the title, Bobby Heenan interfered in the match and Gagne won by disqualification.

(Continued on page 64)



Nick Bockwinkel's AWA championship was also saved by disqualification when manager Bobby Heenan came into the ring to attack Greg Gagne.

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For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

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• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
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- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

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Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help! With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost. "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

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• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!



Tommy Rich does not think much of the Masked Superstar's threat that he will extinguish "Wildfire."

- Q:** "Please ask Tommy "Wildfire" Rich how he feels about the Masked Superstar trying to end his wrestling career."—Regina Weakland, Patton, PA
- A:** "That's exactly what Superstar is trying to do, Regina, he is *trying* to end my career," replies Tommy Rich. "But trying is one thing, and succeeding is another thing altogether. Let me assure you that anytime Masked Super-

star talks about ending my career, all that's coming out of his mouth is hot air."

- Q:** "Would you ask Ted DiBiase if he plans to continue using the figure-four leglock now that his rival Paul Orndorff knows how to apply it and also reverse it."—Stephen Lorio, Raceland, LA
- A:** Ted DiBiase replies: "There are many subtle variations on the figure-four, and I will be working on a variation that will take care of Paul Orndorff. Yes, I intend to continue using that maneuver against Orndorff, and against any other wrestler I happen to face, should the situation warrant it."

- Q:** "Will Bill Dundee ever wrestle for the world title?"—Will Sharp, West Point, MS
- A:** "I've wrestled AWA champ

Nick Bockwinkel a couple of times in the past," notes Dundee, "but I've had a tough time setting up any kind of challenge for his title lately. If you ask me, Bockwinkel is dodging me because he knows I pose a very real threat to his championship. I hope I'll be able to wrestle him in the near future."

- Q:** "A question for David Von Erich: Which hold do you like to use the most, the claw, the dropkick, or the sleeper?"—Ted Rannila, Wichita Falls, TX
- A:** David Von Erich was unable to be reached by presstime, but Managing Editor Bill



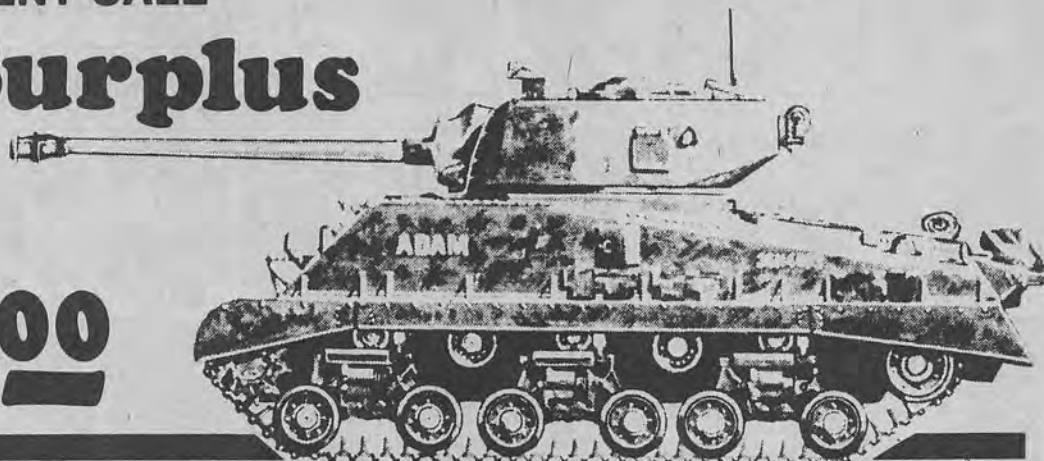
David Von Erich has utilized the brain claw a great deal more than the scientific maneuvers he used in the past.

Apter notes that he has seen David use the clawhold quite a bit recently, probably a lot more than either the dropkick or the sleeper.

- Q:** "In the summer of 1977, Bruno Sammartino said that Bob Backlund would be the man to beat then-WWF
- (Continued on page 52)*

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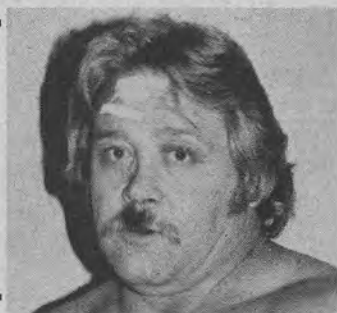
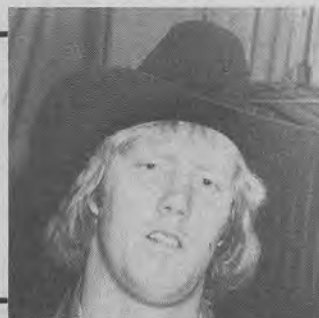
Every issue, this magazine praises the noteworthy and damns those who violate the spirit of wrestling's dignity. The praiseworthy are given a "thumbs up," the disgraceful are marked with "thumbs down." Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

Thumbs Up



THUMBS UP to Bob Backlund: This is the fourth anniversary of Bob Backlund's WWF title reign. Rarely in the history of wrestling has one man managed to maintain a record of success and dignity that approaches Bob's championship era. Though he has many years in front of him, Bob Backlund has already assured himself an honored place in wrestling history.

THUMBS DOWN to David Von Erich: In a shameful display of wrestling rulebreaking, David Von Erich won the Southern title from Jack Brisco. With the notorious James J. Dillon as his manager, Von Erich has become one of the most despicable athletes in the sport. This formerly decent grappler has brought shame onto himself and his illustrious wrestling family.



THUMBS UP to Ray Stevens: This determined veteran has had one of the most tumultuous careers in professional wrestling history. Adding to his legend, he is currently waging one of his rare wars against rulebreakers. The Anderson brothers have become Stevens' bitter enemies, and he is determined to run them out of wrestling. It is a dangerous quest, but Stevens has been fearless.

THUMBS DOWN to Nick Bockwinkel: Though the fans demand it, and Tito Santana has certainly earned it, Nick Bockwinkel is refusing to give Tito Santana another title shot. Even if he is forced to do so in the near future, Nick's attempts to avoid the title match have been disgraceful.



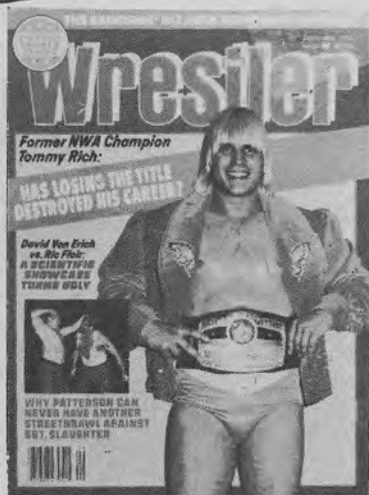
THUMBS UP to Big Red: Despite the ugly taunts of Ole Anderson, Big Red remains one of the most dignified men in wrestling. He refused to stoop to Anderson's gutter mentality and took out his revenge in the ring. Big Red brought honor to the sport and showed Anderson up both inside and outside the squared circle.

(Continued on page 58)

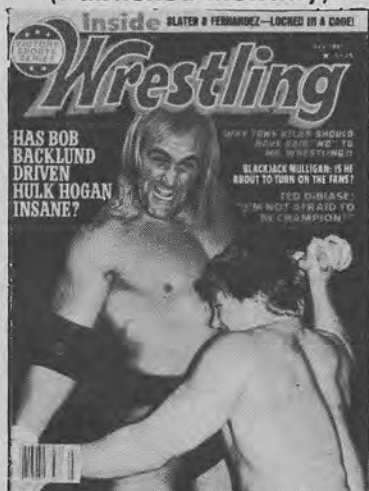
Thumbs Down



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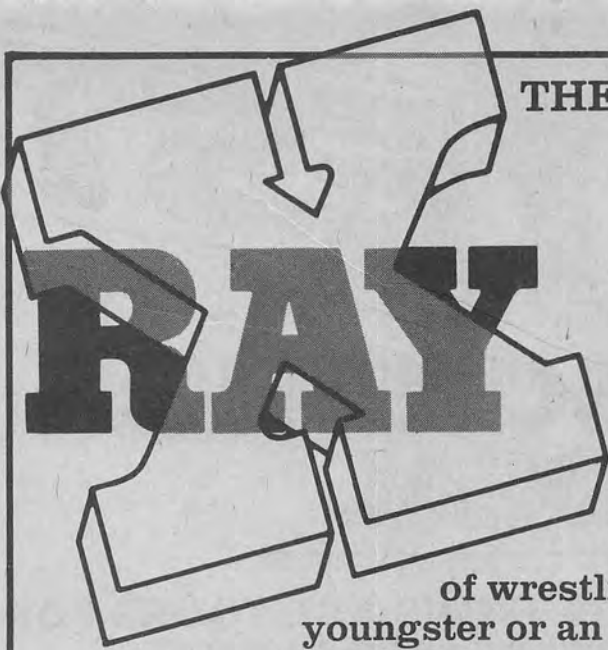
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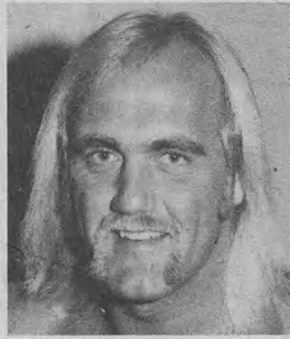
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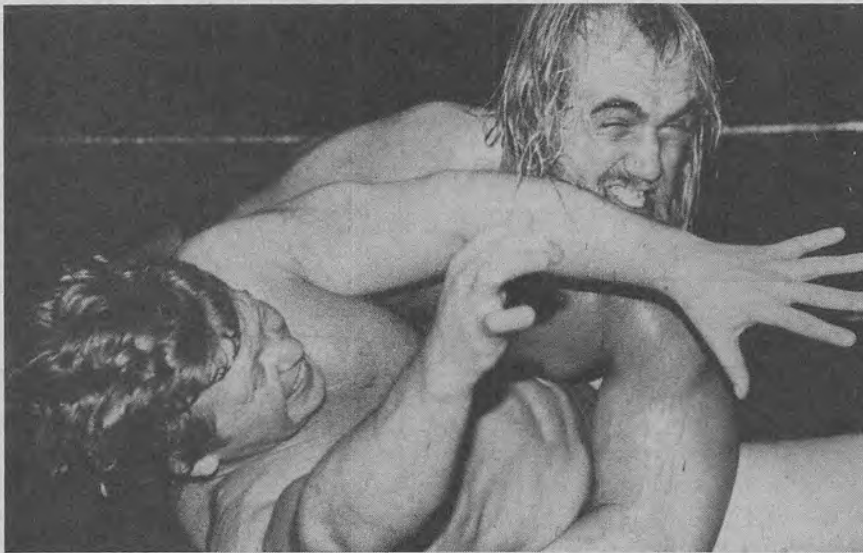


THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



HULK HOGAN

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Hogan is anxious to test his skills against the world's top wrestlers. The Hulk holds the upper hand against Bob Backlund (above left), Andre the Giant (above right), Jerry Lawler (below left), and Crusher Blackwell (below right).





BRUNO SAMMARTINO

Well, I'll tell you the truth, Hulk Hogan confuses me. He's strong and tough, no doubt about that, but I don't trust the man. When he was in the WWF, he was one of the dirtiest wrestlers I've ever seen. He would break a man's leg for the fun of it. I know he's a fan favorite in the AWA right now, but I wouldn't be his tag team partner. The man could change any minute.

Bruno Sammartino is a former two-time WWF champion. He is known as wrestling's "Living Legend."



JOHNNY VALENTINE

Hulk Hogan may be the world's biggest punk. Watching him grovel before the fans is enough to make a maggot gag. He hasn't had a good match since he entered the AWA. Last year, when he was setting the WWF on fire, I'd have rated him one of the best wrestlers to come along in a long, long time. Today, I'd have to call him one of the great wasted talents of wrestling. Watching him bores me.

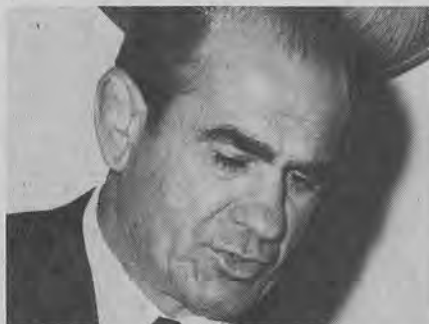
Johnny Valentine is a former U.S. champion and world tag team titleholder who was a top contender for the NWA, AWA, and WWF belts during his career.



VERNE GAGNE

I know about Hulk Hogan's past, but I'm willing to believe it's just that—past. I judge a man by what he's doing at the moment, and at this moment Hogan is a remarkable wrestler. His courage is unbelievable. He never runs away from a battle, and he's been challenged by the meanest guys around. I'd be proud if he became AWA champion. I know no higher compliment.

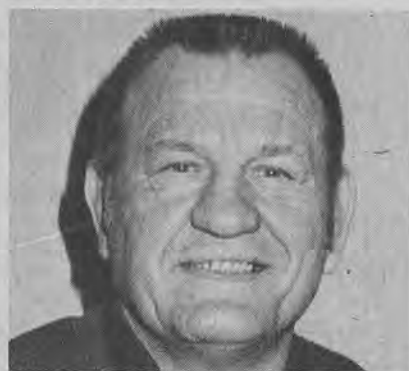
Verne Gagne held the AWA title a record 11 times. He is considered one of the greatest scientific wrestlers in history.



LOU THESZ

I think we're maybe five years away from seeing the peak of Hogan's ability. He's young, strong, but awkward, as anyone his age is awkward. He still must refine his moves. Also, he could use a manager. He needs someone to devise new and more complex strategies. Because of his great strength, he never needed much strategy; he could overpower any opponent. Now, he's got to get smarter before he can be great.

Lou Thesz held the NWA championship six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Some consider him the greatest all-around wrestler ever.



GENE KINISKI

There's nothing tough about a big man like Hogan being strong. What is tough is not being influenced by fans and promoters. Hogan isn't tough enough for that. Because the WWF was afraid of him, they refused to give him the title shots he deserved. So when he went to the AWA, he made sure the officials loved him. Now he'll get the title shots. Big deal. He may win the belt but lose his soul. That's a lousy trade.

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA champion during the late 1960s.



EDDIE GRAHAM

Hogan's strength is awesome. What's more, he knows how to channel that strength. He's raw yet, maybe two years away from his peak. If he became AWA champion, I don't think he could keep it for long. I think Bockwinkel's cunning would get it back for him. But in two years, Hogan should tower over everyone. The potential is there. If he's willing to work for it, he can have everything.

Eddie Graham is a former world tag team champion and top contender for the NWA title.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the true collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues is very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, **WRESTLING** magazine changed its name to **BOXING & WRESTLING**. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.

JANUARY 1952 Boxing—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts
Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londos vs. Shikat \$25

JUNE 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record
Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz \$25

AUGUST 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeney Teran and Gil Cadilli, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tendler, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings
Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of Month, Mighty Atlas \$25

SEPTEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Araujo, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldoon, Wrestling Whirl \$25

OCTOBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello
Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne \$25

DECEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenbloom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz
Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choyinski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin
Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Viann, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club \$25

MARCH 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Cricqui, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Young Griffo, Kid McCoy vs. Tomy Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez

Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs. \$25

APRIL 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choyinski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, 'Boardwalk' Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nick's Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings \$25

JUNE 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Eduardo Lausé, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goetz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga \$25

JULY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nick's, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Tiger Joe Marsh, Matches of Month, Timmy Geohagen, TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build Muscles, Was Henri DeGlane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talabar \$25

AUGUST 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritz Zivic battles Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings

Wrestling—Legs' Langevin, Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Norrellini \$25

SEPTEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Castellani, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Leo Norrellini, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Stinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller \$25

OCTOBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Titled Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears \$25

NOVEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Marciano Kayoes Archie Moore, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, What Made Dempsey A Killer? 'Bud' Smith, Yama Bahama, Joe Gans vs. Rufe Turner, Strategy, Tony Puleo, Great Trainers, Ratings, Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Quiz

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Matches of Month, Don Arnold, Colorful Characters, Hindu Wrestlers, Chris Tolos, Malcolm Brenner, Full Color Pin Up of Pat O'Connor \$25

JANUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giambra upsets Bobo Olson, Joe Lynch, Ray Drake, Mystery of Joe Walcott Solved, Training Camps, Jimmy Slattery, Chris Christensen, Bare Knuckle Brawl—Tom Johnson vs. Isaac Perrins, Pety Sarron, Charley White, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Why Women Wrestle, Wrestling Whirl, Bill Fletcher, Ivan Padubny, Bearded Wrestlers, Matches of Month, Art Michalek, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

MARCH 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Chuck Spieser, Isaac Logart, Ratings, Luis Firpo's Life, Raton Macias, Jim Jeffries vs. Ji Corbett, Tiger Jones, Boxing Lesson, Review of 1955, Frankie Genaro, Quiz

Wrestling—Leo 'The Lion' Newman, Matches of Month, Doc Gallagher, Terrible Turk, Breast Cancer and Girl Wrestlers, Barefoot Wrestlers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Wives of Wrestlers \$25

APRIL 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Commissioner Helfand, Pete Herman, Regaining Titles, Bobby Boyd, Ace Hudkins' Life, George Dixon vs. Solly Smith, Joe Benjamin, Louis 'Kid' Kaplan, Quiz \$25

MAY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, How Floyd Patterson Will Fight Marciano, Ray Robinson's Problems, Jackie 'Kid' Berg's Life, Yama Bahama, 'Kid' Lavigne, Combating TV, Sam Langford, Bob Murphy, Boxing Lesson, Carl Tremaine, Ratings, Quiz
Wrestling—Rocca, Ada Ash, Matches of Month, Old Timers, Prince Maivia, Wrestling Whirl, Jerry Graham, Red Bastien, Gossip \$25

JUNE 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ludwig Lightburn, Remembering Chicago, Tony Zale's Life, Rory Calhoun, Quiz, Ratings, Tom Sharkey vs. Peter Maher by Jim Corbett, Aurelio Herrera, Dave Shade, Readers' Gripe
Wrestling—'Hard Boiled' Haggerty, Wrestling Whirl, John Pesek, Killer Kowalski, Texas Hot Spot, Powerhouses, Matches of Month, Fan Clubs, Gossip \$25

JULY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Marciano, Max Schmeling's Life, Johnny Saxton, John L. Sullivan, Miguel Berrios, Larry Boardman, Quiz, Ratings, Joe Gans vs. 'Elbows' McFadden, Hollywood Legion Stadium, Ritchie Mitchell
Wrestling—Lord Blears, Matches of Month, Mexican Stars, Ramona TeSelle, Danno O'Mahoney, Wrestling Whirl, Roy Shire, TV Wrestling, Gossip \$25

AUGUST 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Bob Fitzsimmons vs. Peter Maher, Cheril Hamia, John Holman, Jess Willard's Life, Bucking TV, Johnny Summerlin, Joe Choyinski, Earl Mastro, Ratings, Bob Armstrong, Quiz, Gossip

Wrestling—George Drake, Wrestling Whirl, Chief Kit Fox, Matches of Month, Yvon Robert (Part 1), Why Wrestlers Bleach Their Hair, Bob Geigel, Gossip \$25

OCTOBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, Henry Armstrong's Life, Archie Moore, Jimmy McLarnin, Charley Joseph, Jim Jeffries, Jimmy Soo, Boxing Lesson, Kid Chocolate, Ratings, Quiz, Letters

Wrestling—Don Leo Jonathan, Wrestling Whirl, Fred Blassie, Billy Varga's Wife, Dangers of Wrestling, Yvon Robert (Part 3), Matches of Month, Letters, Fan Club \$25

NOVEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Tony DeMarco, Art Aragon, Mario D'Agata, Tony Anthony, King Levinsky's Life, Johnny Busso, Joe Louis vs. John Henry Lewis, Ken Overlin, Ratings, Lockport Jimmy Duffy, Kid McCoy vs. Jim Stewart, Quiz
Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Around the Circuit, Slave Girl Moolah, Ratings, Matches of Month, Yvon Robert (Part 4), George Hubert, Fan Clubs, Letters \$25

DECEMBER 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Gene Fuller, Jack Dempsey vs. Billy Miske, Harold Carter, Tex Class Fights, Jinx of College Fighters, Barney Ross vs. Jimmy McLarnin, Alex Miteff, Eddie 'Babe' Risko, Leonard Del Genio, Frank Battaglia, Ratings, Letters
Wrestling—John Paul Hennig, Wrestling Whirl, Rose Roman, Tag Team Situation, Matches of Month, Jim Wright, Bull Montana's Wife, Are Fans Crazy? Letters \$25

JANUARY 1957 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Carmen Basilio, Fighter of Year, Mike Gibbons' Life, Predicting the Champs in 1957, Joe Brown, Greatest Lightweights of All Time, Stanley Ketchel, Boxing Lesson, Tommy Loughran beats Jim Braddock, Bill Brennan, Ratings, Quiz, Letters
Wrestling—Carl Engstrom, Greatest Champions of All Time, Bronko Nagurski, Matches of Month, Johnny Barend Wrestling Whirl, Tito Carreon, Comparing Old and New, Letters \$30

SEPTEMBER 1957 Boxing—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Fights of Month, Tony Anthony, Benny Leonard Kayoed by Frank Fleming, Alphonse Halimi, Peter Jackson, Willie Pastrano, Gene Tunney, Billy Ryan, Triple Header; Harry Greb beats Mickey Walker, Dave Shade Kayoes Jimmy Slattery, Harry Wills Stops Charley Weinert, 'Knockout Brown', Tom Sayers, Stanley Ketchel's Life in Pictures, Critics Talk, Ratings
Wrestling—Wrestlers Highest Paid, Killer Kowalski, Results of Month, Hard Boiled Hagerty, Letters, Fan Clubs, Facts Behind Wrestling Boom \$35

JANUARY 1958 Boxing—Stanley Weston Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Braddock vs. Tommy Farr, Floyd Patterson, Johnny Kilbane, Mike O'Dowd, Chalky Wright, Carmen Basilio, Jimmy Wilde's Life, World's Ten Best Fighters, Quiz, Fighters Turned Actor, Bobbing Lesson, Bare Knuckle Feature, Leach Cross Kayoes Young Otto, Letters, Remember When, Ratings
Wrestling—Ricki Starr, The Bruiser, Canadian Trail, Fan Clubs, Letters, Matches of Month \$25

FEBRUARY 1958 Boxing—TV Jottings, Letters, Fights of Month, Louis vs. Marciano, Robinson vs. LaMotta, Walcott vs. Charles, Pep vs. Saddler, Basilio vs. DeMarco, Light Heavyweight History, Punch that Shocked World (Jack Sharkey Fouts Max Schmeling), Preview of 1958, Born Killer (Fiction), Britain's Boxing Booths, Ray Robinson's Career in Pictures, Picking Winners, Quiz, Gene Tunney-Georges Carpentier Feud, Al McCoy, Critics Talk
Wrestling—Mickey Gold, The Garibaldis, Smith Brothers, Gypsy Joe, The Gallaghers, How Women React to Wrestlers, Photo Highlights, Results of Month, Fan Clubs \$25

APRIL 1958 Boxing—Stanley Weston Editorial, Letters, Fights of Month, Ratings, Carmen Basilio—Fighter of the Year, Complete Review of 1957 featuring Records, Results, Weights, Photos (Eight Pages), Bob Fitzsimmons, History of the Middleweights, Kid Chocolate Beats Fidel LaBarba, John L. Sullivan's Life, Barney Ross' Book, Remember When
Wrestling—Wrestlers in Movies, Sexiest Girl Wrestlers—Penny Banner and Barbara Baker, Predictions for 1958, Is The Champion Lou Thesz or Ed Carpentier? Sellout at the Garden, Photos of Month, Results of Month \$25

WRESTLING REVUE

WRESTLING REVUE (1959-1964) is thought to be the finest series of wrestling magazines ever published. These beautiful editions (all edited and published by Stanley Weston) set a standard by which all of today's wrestling magazines are judged. The magnificent back issues in this ad, many of which contain spectacular full-color inserts, have been unavailable to the public for more than 10 years. Supplies of these collector's treasures are very limited.

FALL 1960 \$35
 SUMMER 1960 \$35
 WINTER 1960 \$30

BOXING ILLUSTRATED—WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958 Stanley Weston launched BOXING ILLUSTRATED—WRESTLING NEWS, which established an entirely new concept in the field of boxing and wrestling magazines. They consisted of about 65 percent boxing and 35 percent wrestling in content of the finest writing and photographs

ever published. Most of the very rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale in almost 20 years; and they are among the most highly prized Collector's Issues of all time.

NOVEMBER 1958 \$25
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 JANUARY 1960 \$40
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 NOVEMBER 1964 \$40

TV BOXING



To meet the public's growing hunger for up-to-the-minute information generated by regular boxing matches shown on the new television medium, Stanley Weston created a new magazine in 1953 to meet the demands. TV BOXING was unique in every way, and while its life's span was less than

two years, it established itself as a milestone in the field of boxing magazines. The extremely rare issues listed below have not been offered for sale since 1954.

OCTOBER 1953 \$25
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 JANUARY 1954 \$25
 FEBRUARY 1954 \$30
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 MAY 1954 \$25
 JULY 1954 \$30

1953 BOXING ANNUAL



This cherished collector's issue consisted of 100 pages of seemingly endless photographs, statistics and complete records of the leading fighters of the day: Marciano, Robinson, Galian, DeMarco, Carter, Saddler, Moore. The list goes on and on. And well over 100 great pictures, some in a glowing red tint.

We guarantee that this fabulous 1953 Boxing Annual will turn back the clock and make you feel like you are living in those times; thrilling to the unforgettable performances of some of the greatest fighters who ever lived. This was the first Boxing Annual ever published, and to this day it still retains its title: The Best of All Time—The Champion of Champions! \$50

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In The Event Any Of The Above Magazines Are Sold Out, I Will Accept The Substitute Issues Listed Below

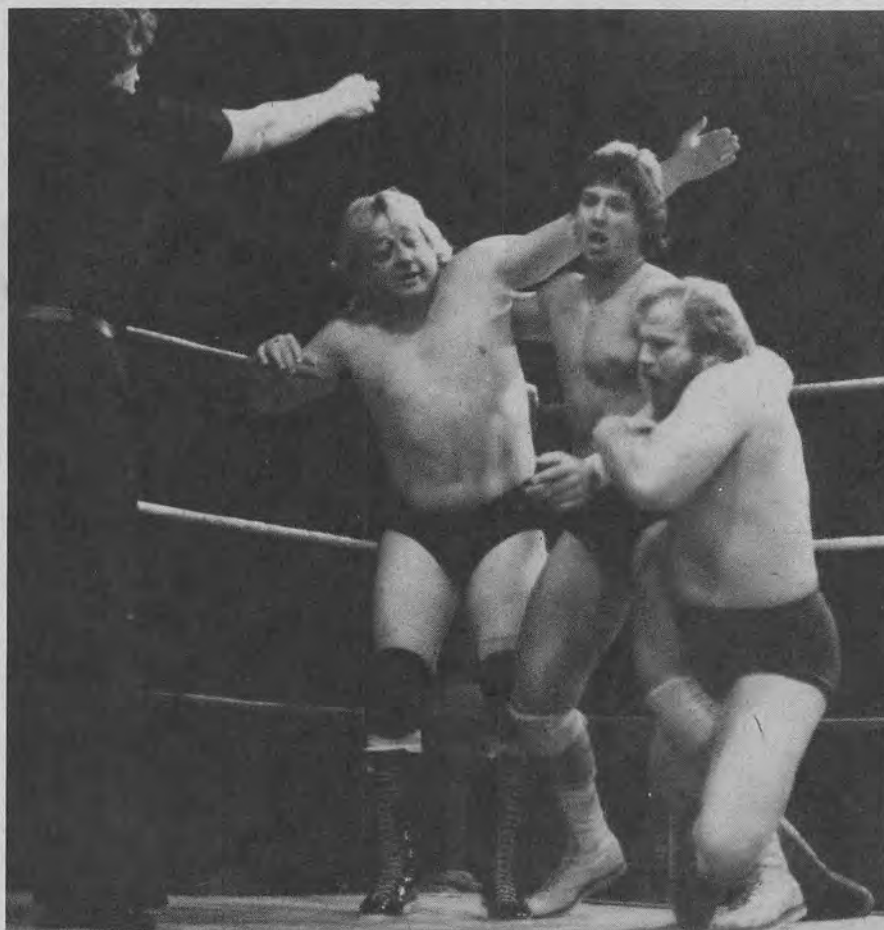
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Q&A

Each month, **THE WRESTLER** will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost on the fans' minds



After tagging off to Ole Anderson, Ray Stevens gives El Gran Apollo one final slap to the back of the head before leaving the ring. Despite their disregard for the rulebook, Stevens and Anderson were considered a superior tag team.

Q: Ray, I want to ask you first about the . . .

A: Listen, before you ask me anything, I want to let the readers of this magazine know the truth about Ole Anderson, the truth about the beast that walks like a man, the truth about that crud. The truth is that Ole Anderson is a worthless piece of human flesh, his brother Gene is a weak sister who suffered a concussion from a shot to the head that any real man could have shaken off without any trouble at all, and that neither of these so-called men deserve to hold the NWA tag team belts.

Q: That's pretty strong stuff coming from a man who not long ago was a tag team partner with Ole Anderson.

A: Yeah, I played the sap alright. It wasn't my choice, you know. Poor little Gene landed himself in the hospital, and brother Ole comes begging me to take his place. You should have heard how he humbled himself to me just so I would agree to be his tag team partner. Sure, Ole's a stupid son of a gun, but even an idiot can have a flash of brilliance once in a while. Ole's smarts was



RAY STEVENS

RAY STEVENS IS one of America's most notorious wrestlers. Known as "The Crippler" his nickname has been well earned. Over the years, Stevens has taught the meaning of terror to many a wrestler, building his reputation on the fear and hate he has fostered in them. Having held literally dozens upon dozens of regional titles, Stevens is also one of the most decorated wrestlers in his area. In this interview, Stevens talks of his recent tag team partner, Ole Anderson, and why that partnership turned to bitter hatred.

realizing that I'm the best tag team wrestler in the country. That's why he came begging to me like he did.

Q: And you agreed to wrestle with him.

A: That's right.

Q: Then you turned on him.

A: You'd better believe it, sonny.

Q: Why?

A: Why? You ask me why? I'll tell you why, it's because that egotistical zilch Ole saw himself as "captain" of the team. He thought he was smart enough and experienced enough to be able to order me around. Well, I've got more smarts in my pinky finger than both of the Andersons put together.

Q: You turned on him during a televised match.

A: That's right, because I wanted everyone to see what kind of scum the Andersons are. I want everyone to know that Ole Anderson can't treat me the same way that he treats his moronic brother, and I'm not about to stand for that kind of treatment. If anybody should have been the leader of that tag team combination, it should have been me. No, I'm not going

to stand for that kind of treatment from anybody.

Q: Now you're teaming with...

A: With Johnny Weaver. Together, Johnny and I are simply the best tag team wrestlers ever to grace the Georgia and Mid-Atlantic rings, and we're going to prove it to the fans and especially to those Anderson freaks.

Q: There have been rumors that you might even team up with Rick Steamboat.

A: Well, I can't say one way or the other about Rick, you know, I guess you'd better ask him. I'd be glad to wrestle with him if he's ready to go against the Anderson ladies. Look, I don't really care who I team

(Continued on page 49)



Stevens quickly became disenchanted with the way he was treated by Anderson and declared war on his former partner. Ole quickly enlisted the services of Buzz Sawyer as his partner in this brewing feud.

INTRODUCING

ABOUT EIGHT YEARS ago in Atlanta, every frequent participant in the city's nightlife had heard of the near-legendary figure who danced his way to fame and, eventually, a career.

A shade under 6'5", something more than 375 pounds, it was his hair rather than his size which earned him the name "Big Red."

"I love to disco dance," Big Red told *The Wrestler*, "and if it wasn't for that, I'd probably never have gone into wrestling. What happened was that I was on the floor one night, I guess it was pretty late. Anyway, this guy comes up to me and makes some kind of remark about my dancing style. Well, I was pretty used to turkeys like that coming up to me, because I guess I had built up a reputation among the disco folks in Atlanta.

"Anyway, this guy was big," Red continued, "and he didn't give up. Well, I don't usually like to resort to violence, but he threw the first shot, so I had to teach him a lesson. Well, it turns out that there was a pro wrestling scout in the disco that night and he liked the way I handled myself. Said I was pro material. He gave me his card. I didn't really think about it until I cleaned out my pockets to bring my suit to the tailor two weeks later and found his card. I gave him a call, and the rest, as they say, is history."

Soon thereafter, Big Red made his professional debut. The date



BIG RED

was May 17, 1975, the opponent was Super Assassin, and the match was short.

"I think I surprised myself more than anyone else that night," Big Red recalls. "I stepped into the ring, did my thing, and before I knew it, the match was over. I couldn't believe I had won, but I did. Next to me, you know, Super Assassin was just a scrawny little wimp. I'm sure the size difference had a lot to do with it."

Size was a common factor in Big Red's family. It seems that

everyone is a little huskier and more muscular than average. His father, a minister and the owner of a dry cleaning store, is 280 pounds. His mother is a producer of television gospel programs. Together, his parents guided Big Red through some very difficult early years.

"Until I was five years old, a disease had left me completely paralyzed," explained Big Red. "It was a very difficult ordeal for my parents, but they pulled me—and each other—through with a lot of love. I was really too young to know what was wrong with me, but when I think back on what they must have gone through... well, I can't hardly put it into words. It means a lot to me, and those are two amazing, very special people.

"The thing was, though, that they did pull me through and I went on to become a pretty good dancer and an athlete besides," Big Red continued. "For a guy who was paralyzed for five years, that's not too shabby, you know? So what I do is take that message to other unfortunate people, the message that if you have a handicap, it most certainly is not something that has to keep you down for the count.

"Anybody, and I think I'm a pretty good example of this," Big Red said, "anybody can do anything they want. All you've got to do is try, and that's what I want to see a lot of my friends do—try

Spotted in the Atlanta disco scene by a sharp-eyed wrestling promoter, Big Red commands big respect. Since his 1975 debut, he has developed a style, both in and out of the ring, that has earned the admiration of everyone who has seen him in action as a wrestler, and as an inspiration to others



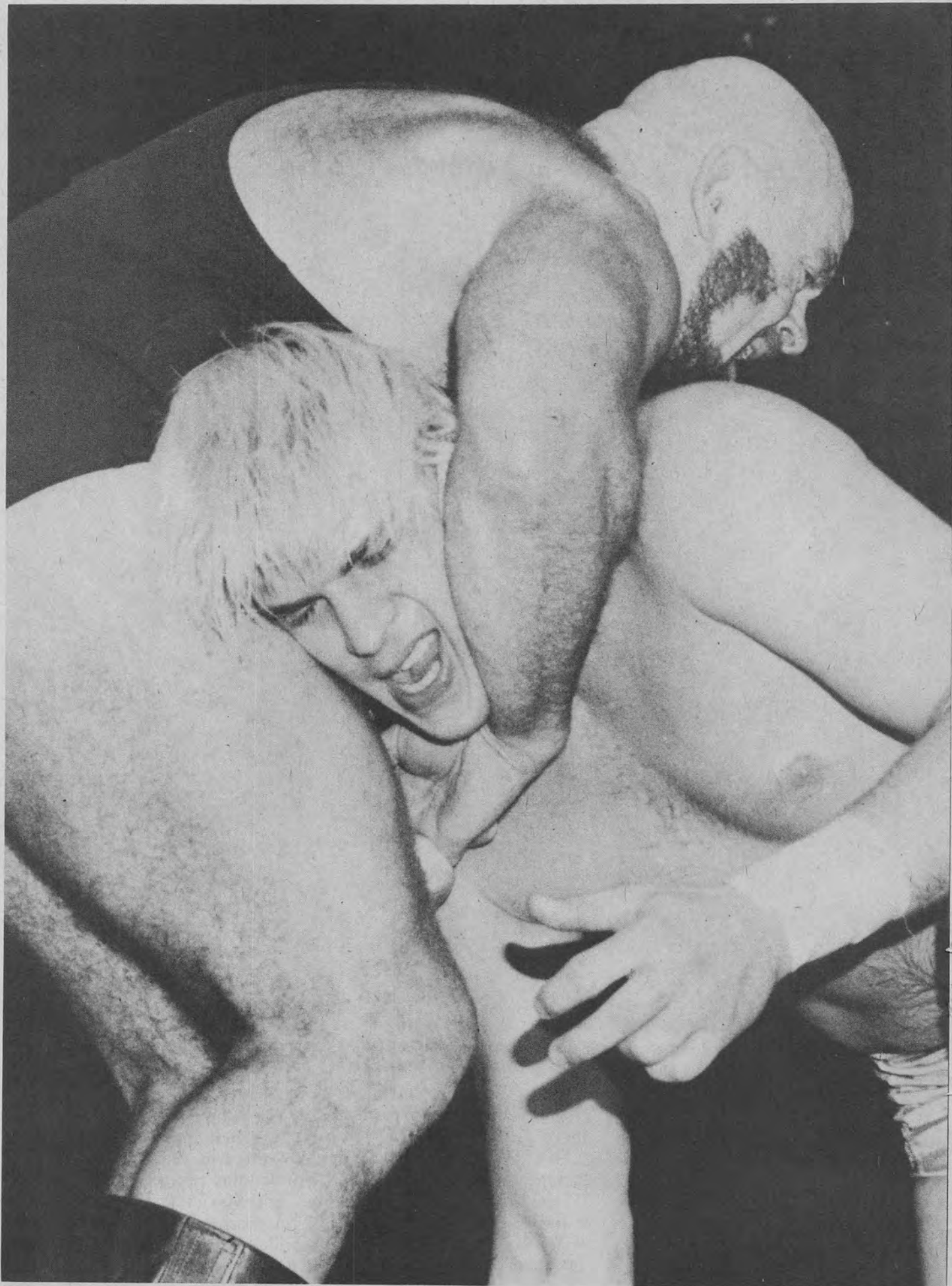
Big Red overcame a disease that left him paralyzed for the first five years of his life to become a proficient dancer and wrestler. The case of Big Red proves there is hope for any man.

for whatever it is they want in life. Too many people who have handicaps feel sorry for themselves, they feel that they are useless to society and that they are a problem to everyone else. Well, I'm here to tell them that's just not so."

Big Red paused a moment in thought, then continued.

"It's also people who aren't handicapped, they've got to learn things, too. They've got to realize that we're all people, we all have hopes and dreams, and that we're all able to do the things we want in

life. All we've got to do is try, and we're not about to let the loss of a limb, five years of paralysis, or anything else get in our way. And once you understand that, brother, and once you try, success comes a little bit easier. That's something I know for a fact." □



DID THE NWA SEND IVAN KOLOFF TO DESTROY TOMMY RICH?

Tommy Rich appears to be trapped in a battle with Ivan Koloff that he did not ask for. Again and again, Rich finds himself grappling with the Russian Bear in some of the toughest matches of his life. One editor of this magazine believes the NWA is out to get Rich, and he explains why

PHOTOS BY
MAGGIE ADKINS

IN THE RING, Tommy Rich struggled to recover from the effects of an Ivan Koloff bearhug. The fans who had assembled in the Columbus, Georgia, arena to witness this contest cheered for Rich as he regained his senses and took the offensive stance in a match that proved to be one of the most exciting this area has seen in months.

Somewhere in the arena sat NWA vice-president for ratings, Al Kasha. Two weeks earlier, Kasha had sent a memo to all NWA promoters, a copy of which has been acquired by *The Wrestler*.

To all promoters:

While it is widely believed that Tommy Rich is the number-one contender to Ric Flair's title, I have seen little evidence of this lately. Frankly, Rich seems to be highly inconsistent, varying from match to match in his style.

Nevertheless, Rich continues to be touted by both fans and press as the number-one challenger. I have yet to be convinced of this fact, but I am willing to allow fan and media pressure to have their opinions validated.

I want for all of you to come up with a suitable test for Rich. He needs to wrestle someone who will stretch his abilities to the limit, who can press Rich as far as he can go, and then a bit further.

I want to see whether Rich can hold up under pressure. The man you choose must be able to provide a mental challenge as well as a physical one. If Rich can adequately answer both of these challenges, it will be a valuable piece of information.

I have been getting pressure from Rich's people as well. Tommy wants another title shot, and I can't see giving it to him right now. Then again, if he is able to stand up to the tests of the man you choose, perhaps he



deserves another shot at the belt.

Take some time, think about it, and make your choice carefully. It may well affect the course of the NWA championship for a long time to come.

Al S. Kasha

Vice President, NWA

Shortly after this memo circulated among NWA promoters, an unusual thing occurred . . . or perhaps not so unusual given the hindsight of knowing what was in that memo. Tommy Rich began appearing in a series of matches against Ivan Koloff all through the NWA circuit.

Koloff attempts to knock Rich to the arena floor with a series of stomps (above). Rich, vying for another chance at the NWA title, grabs Koloff in a headlock (below).



While *The Wrestler* was able to contact Kasha in relation to this story, he would neither confirm nor deny the existence of a memo or the conclusion that Ivan Koloff was the man chosen for the job of proving whether Tommy Rich deserves a title shot.

One member of our editorial staff, who chose to remain anonymous, had his own analysis of the situation.

"It's obvious that Kasha has finally come to his senses," one of our associate editors noted. "After all, just look at what he says in the memo. He talks about how he can't see giving Rich a title shot. What he really means is that Rich doesn't *deserve* a title shot.

"Then he says something about getting pressure from the Rich camp for a title shot," he continued. "Look, anyone with an IQ higher than a turnbuckle's should be able to read between the lines on this one. It's obvious. Yes, Kasha is getting a lot of pressure from Rich's people, but he doesn't want to test Rich, he wants to wipe him off the face of the planet! For good reason, too, I might add.

"As for that memo, it's no wonder that Kasha won't say anything about it," he concluded. "That's because there were two memos. There was the one we've got that was leaked to the press, then there was another one which told all the NWA promoters to band together, coordinate their schedules, and use Ivan Koloff as a means of destroying Tommy Rich. If you ask me, it's a brilliant plan, and I hope it works."

Back in Columbus that evening, Rich and Koloff continued to pound away at each other. Somewhere in the arena sat the mysterious Al Kasha, his intentions unclear, but with Tommy Rich's future in his control. □

WE HAD FEARED the worst, but dared not admit it to ourselves.

For nearly two years, Superstar Graham had not been heard from at all. His last match had been, according to our records, in early 1980.

Soon thereafter, it was discovered that he was to compete in CBS-TV's World's Strongest Man contest. Tuning in, we noticed that Graham appeared to have gained some weight. Two

things, though, were definite: he had shaved his head completely and had grown a moustache.

Then: nothing.

His usual venues for matches provided no clues. Wrestling programs from arenas where he appeared regularly offered no listings of Superstar Graham. At one time we would receive calls at least weekly from Graham telling us of his whereabouts, but all of a sudden the calls stopped. No information at all regarding

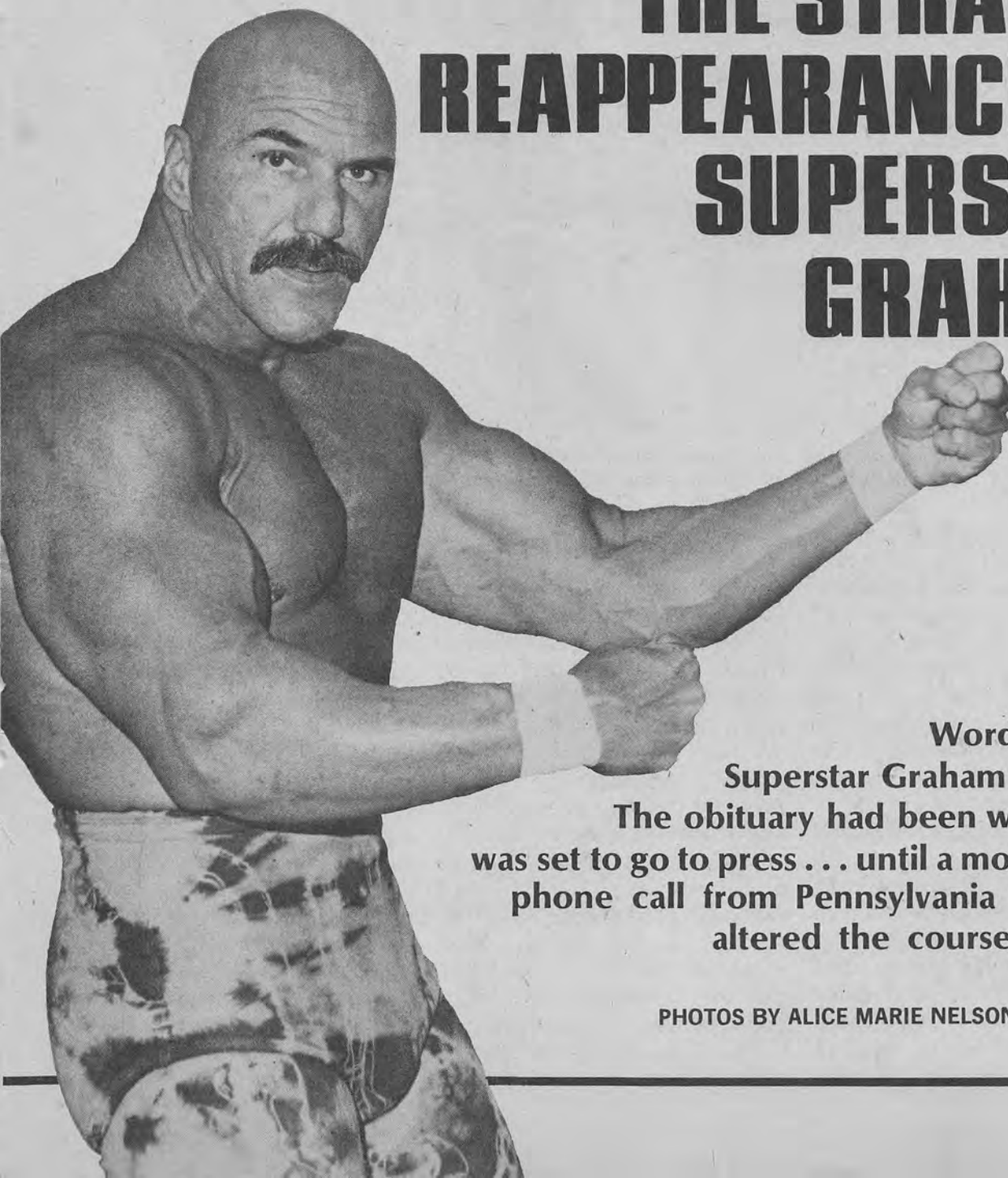
Graham was available.

Then: the rumors began.

Frightening rumors filtered in from all corners of the globe. Correspondents in Japan called our offices in the attempt to confirm what everyone hoped was not true—the rumor that Superstar Graham had died.

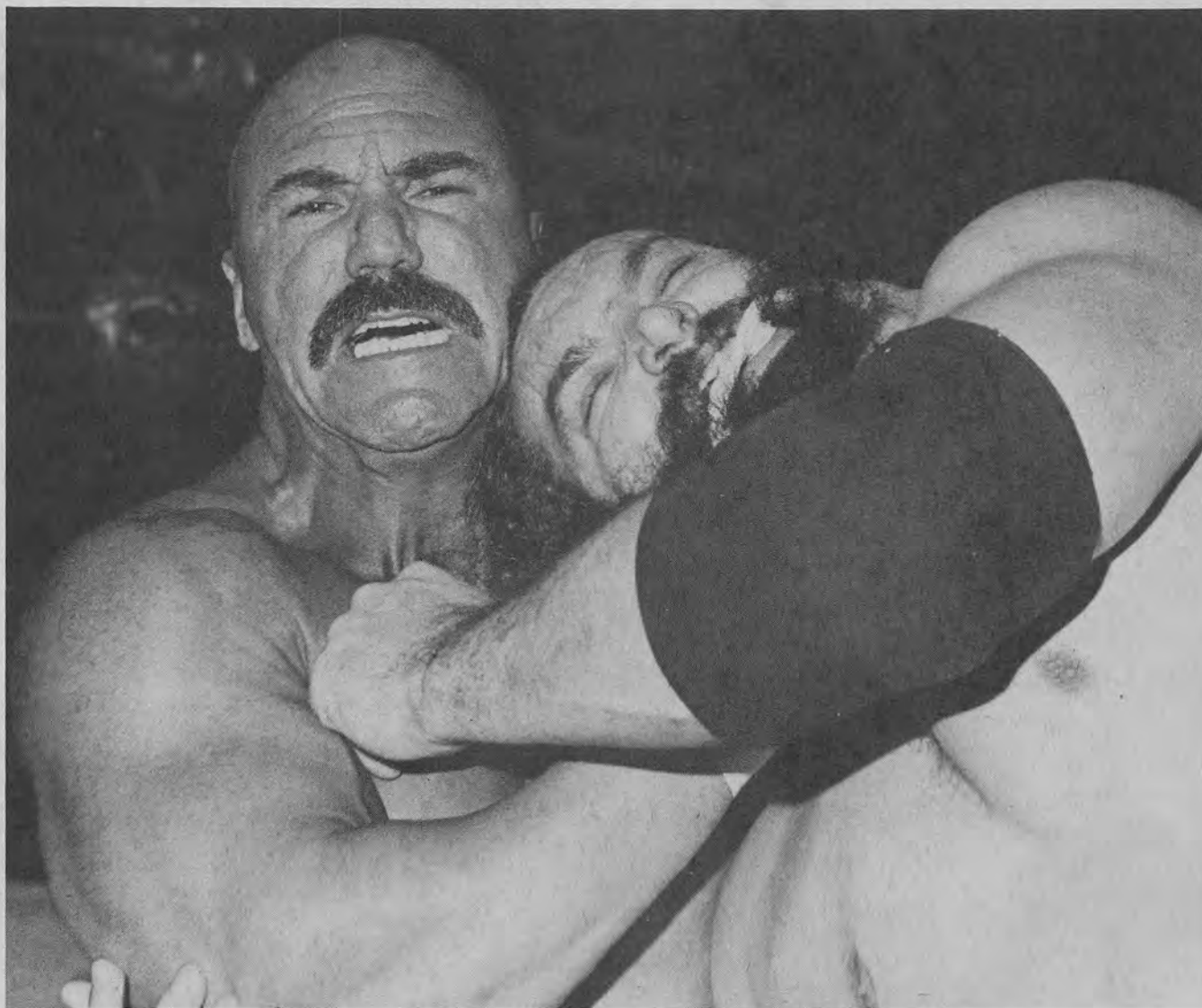
Finally, the mail came pouring in. Fans all across the country had heard what journalists all over the world were scrambling to confirm. They wanted to know if it was true,

THE STRANGE REAPPEARANCE OF SUPERSTAR GRAHAM



**Word was out:
Superstar Graham had died.
The obituary had been written and
was set to go to press . . . until a most unusual
phone call from Pennsylvania drastically
altered the course of events**

PHOTOS BY ALICE MARIE NELSON & JOJI INOUE



Inserting adhesive tape in Brody's mouth, Graham maneuvers his opponent at will. Superstar left no doubt that he is back and more vicious than ever.

if the rumors could be believed.

For weeks we made phone calls to every person who might have known the whereabouts of Graham. No information at all was available. We were beginning to feel that maybe—just maybe—the frightening rumors were true.

It seemed as if we would have to face up to that fact when a Pennsylvania newspaper ran an article on the death of Superstar Graham. Sadly, we prepared to fill these very pages with a story on the great career of Superstar Graham, and how it ended so tragically.

We called the Pennsylvania newspaper for further information regarding that story.

"You won't believe this," a reporter told us, "but not more

than half an hour ago we got a call from Graham! He assured us he was alive, and we had a few laughs over the story we printed. Yeah, you can forget about the obituary, Graham is definitely not dead!"

The reporter told us how we could contact Graham ourselves. We didn't waste a moment.

What was Superstar Graham doing for the past two years? That was the first question we asked him.

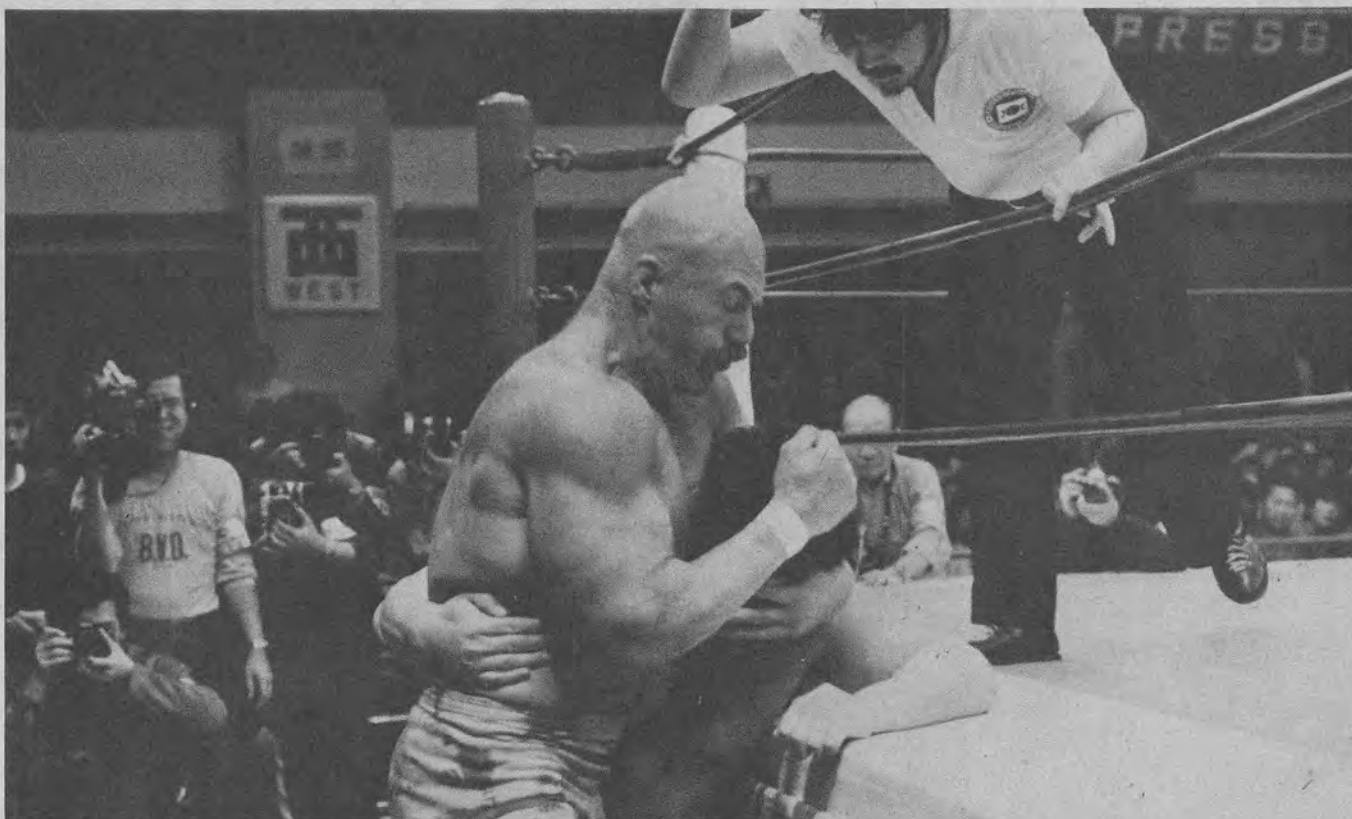
"Well, I've been competing in bodybuilding contests," he explained, "and generally working on my training methods. You should see me now. I'm stronger than ever! I feel great, and I sure don't feel like I've been dead!"

Hearty laughter from Graham assured us that he was as alive as

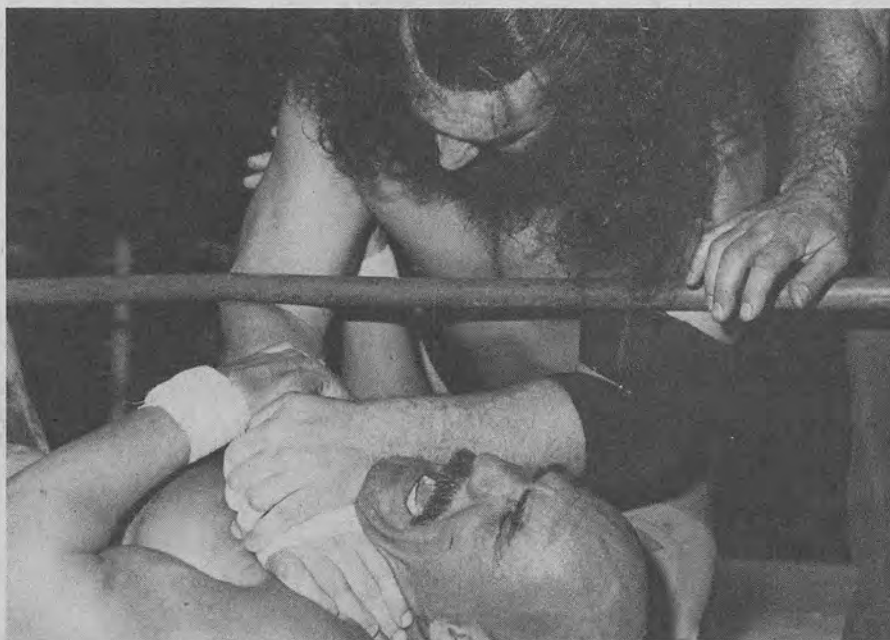
ever. But what about the rumors?

"I'll tell you, I think those rumors were started by Backlund and his manager, Skoaland. Backlund was always afraid of me, fearful that I was the only man in wrestling who could take away the WWF title. Well, I am, and I intend to before long. Backlund started those rumors that I was dead as wishful thinking! Sorry, Bobby, I'm very much alive, and I'm coming after you."

Graham's first matches after his two-year sabbatical took place in the Houston, Texas, area. His debut match was against Bruiser Brody, and Graham exhibited a ferociousness of style that has been unmatched at any time previously in his career.



After a two-year absence, Graham made his return in Texas. After a short stay there, he traveled to Japan. Superstar is letting the world know that he is back and ready to wrestle for a major title. Graham pummels Japanese favorite Choshu Riki (above and below). Bruiser Brody made it clear to Graham that his road back would not be without obstacles (right).



"Two years worth of body-building and muscle development can do a lot for a guy's wrestling," Graham told us. "I feel like a new man. Pretty soon I'll be going to Japan for about five weeks, and by the time your magazine hits the stands, I'll be back in Houston priming up for a return to the WWF."

"I've got one word for Backlund," Graham said, "and that word is *beware*. I'm on the

move, I'm stronger than ever, and I'm taking my title back from that pretty-boy. You may be celebrating your fourth anniversary as champ, Backlund, but I promise you, you won't see a fifth."

Superstar Graham has reappeared as abruptly as he left two years ago, and it seems certain that the clash with Bob Backlund for the WWF heavyweight belt is quite inevitable. □

Bob Backlund's Fourth Anniversary **★ As WWF Champion ★**

THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY GROWS UP



MOST WRESTLING FANS know of Bob Backlund as WWF champion, the man who pinned Superstar Billy Graham's shoulders to the mat on February 20, 1978, and has held the title ever since.

Yet Backlund's professional career stretches back to 1974. His early career is not well known to most fans.

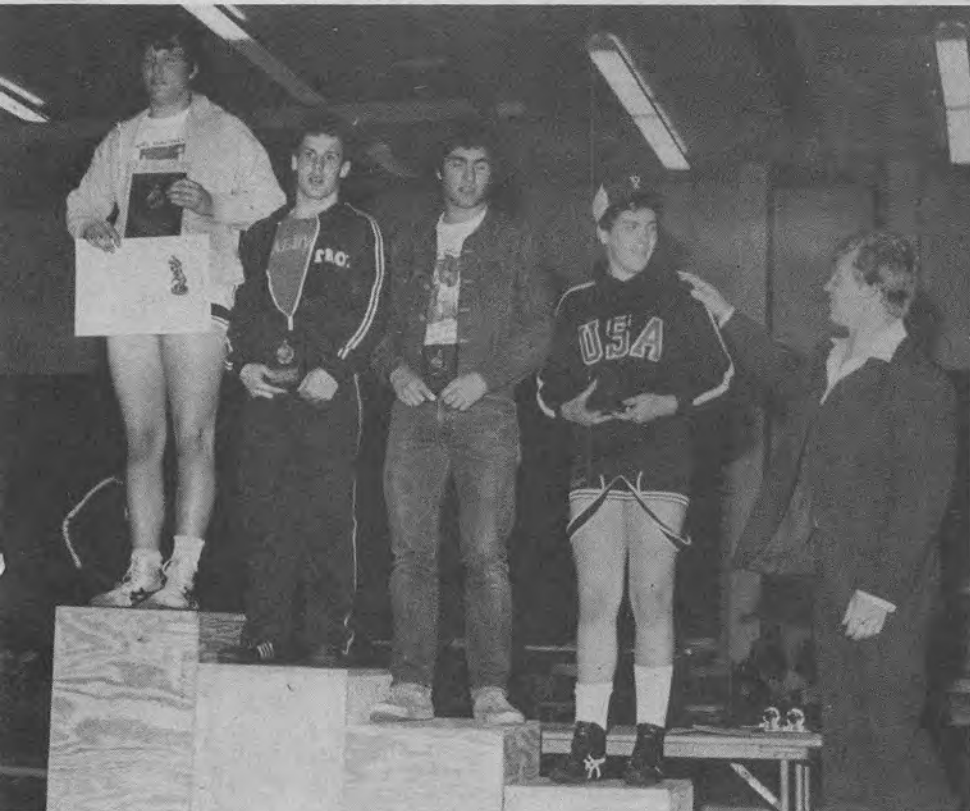
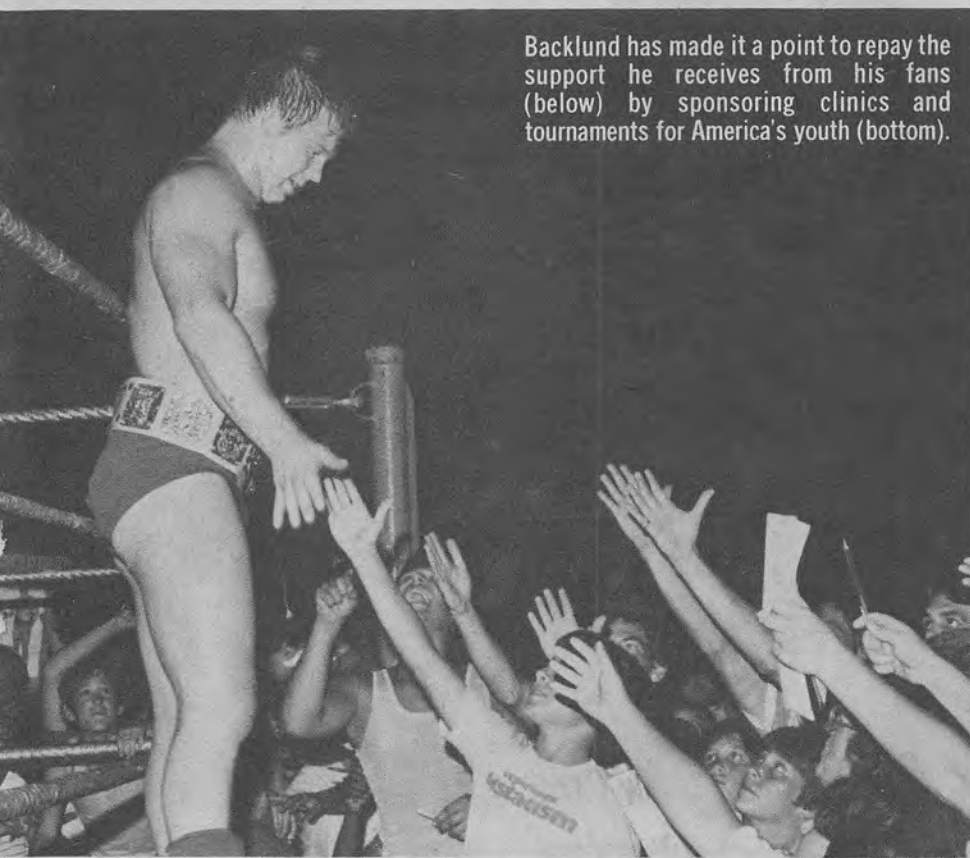
Backlund, born and raised in Princeton, Minnesota, was a five-time all-American collegiate title-holder: four times in football and once in wrestling. Former junior heavyweight champion Danny Hodge saw Backlund wrestle in college and offered to help him turn pro. Along with the Funk family, Hodge guided Backlund into the professional arenas, "showing him the ropes," as it were. Backlund proved to be a quick study.

The first major milestone in Backlund's career was winning of the Missouri state title on April 23, 1976, when he defeated then-champion Harley Race. During 1976, Backlund held both the Missouri title and, along with Steve Keirn, the Florida tag team title.

Backlund subsequently lost the

It was eight short years ago when Bob Backlund made his professional wrestling debut. Four of those eight years have been spent as WWF champion. In that short time, Backlund has chiseled a place for himself in wrestling history that will last forever

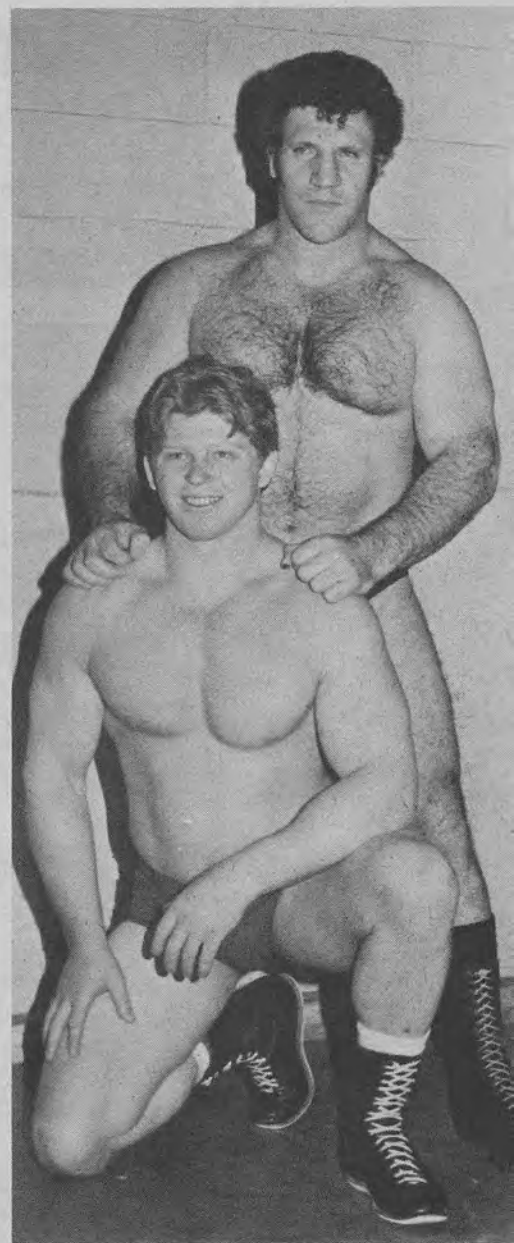
Backlund has made it a point to repay the support he receives from his fans (below) by sponsoring clinics and tournaments for America's youth (bottom).



Missouri title to Jack Brisco on November 26, 1976, and floundered without direction for a short time. Somewhere around the turn of the year, Backlund made the decision to go after Superstar Billy Graham's

WWF belt.

The next 12 months were not easy ones for the young man from Minnesota. January 1977 began a transition year for Backlund. He painfully learned what it meant to be a contender for a title as



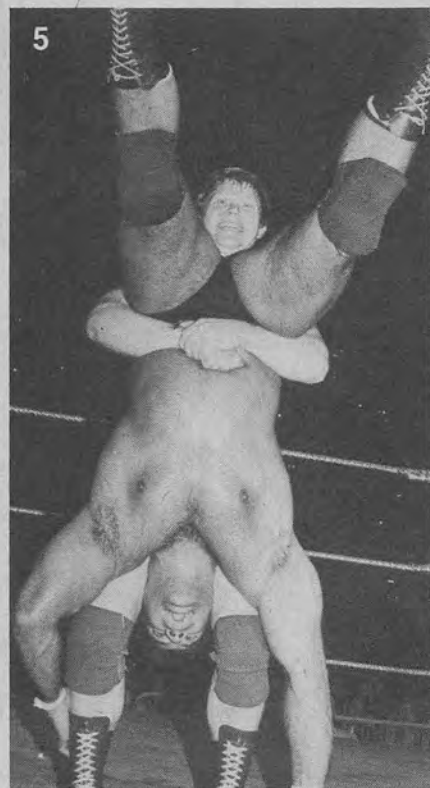
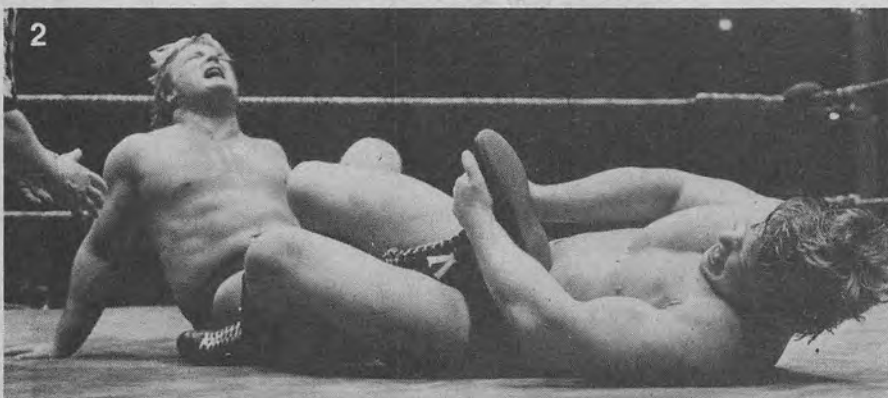
Backlund proudly poses with wrestling's Living Legend, Bruno Sammartino, who served as WWF champion for 11½ years. Sammartino sees Backlund holding the belt for years to come.

prestigious as the WWF belt, though he did grow to be a champion in the eyes of many fans. As 1977 grew older, Backlund grew wiser, and, being the fast learner that he is, he soon began to be seen by professional observers as a serious contender for the WWF title.

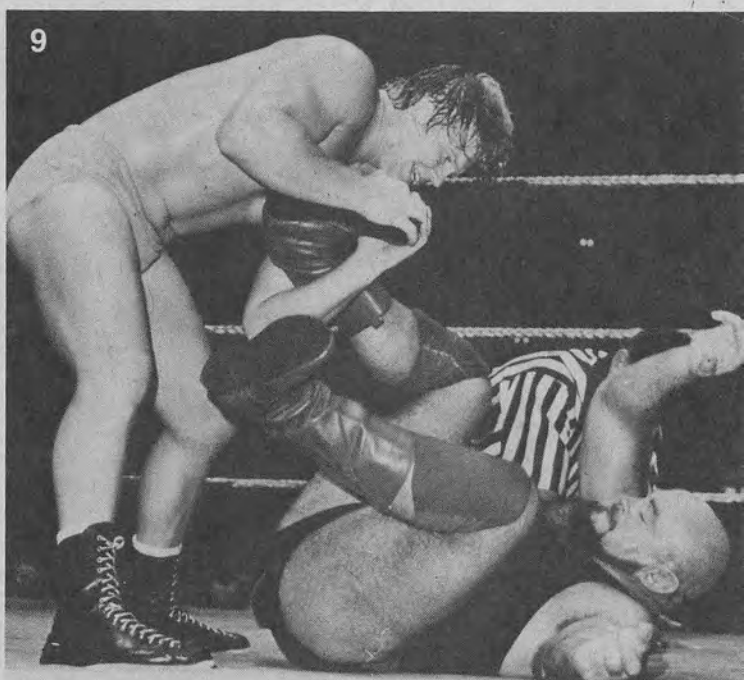
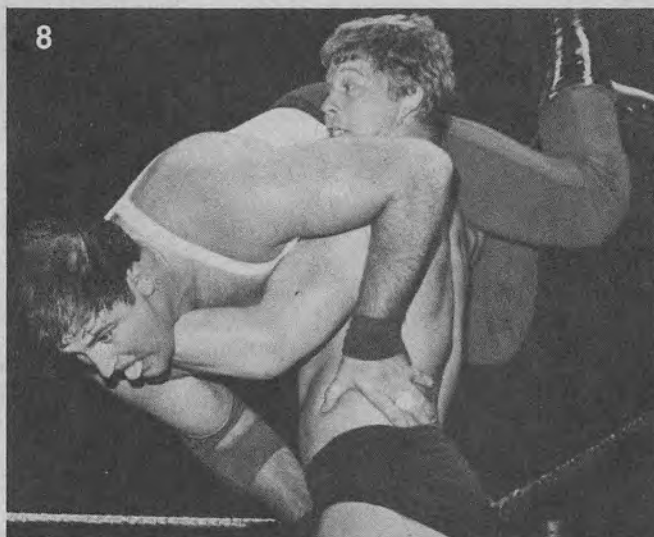
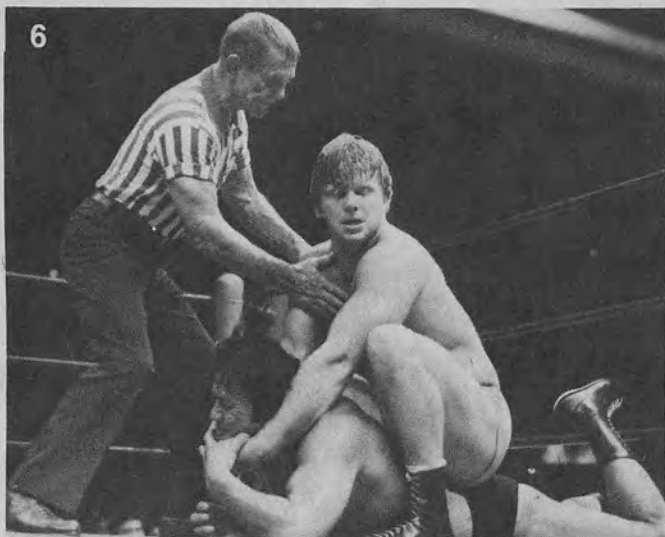
Radical changes occurred in the WWF in 1978. Twice in early February, Backlund defeated Graham, but did not gain the belt due to technicalities. But on

(Continued on page 54)

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOB BACKLUND'S CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS



- 1—Dusty Rhodes and Backlund wrestle to a draw in Japan.
- 2—Backlund maneuvers out of Greg Valentine's figure-four leglock.
- 3—Backlund is declared WWF champion on February 20, 1978, after a victory over Superstar Graham.
- 4—Backlund brings the Incredible Hulk Hogan down to size.
- 5—Magnificent Muraco is about to feel the effects of Backlund's piledriver.



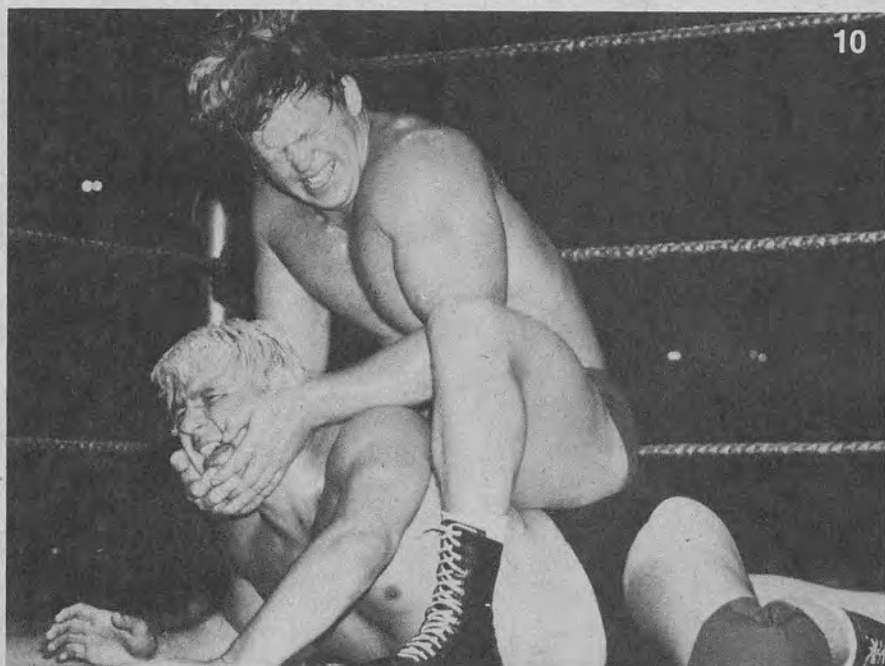
6—The referee orders Backlund to break as Antonio Inoki's foot slides under the ropes.

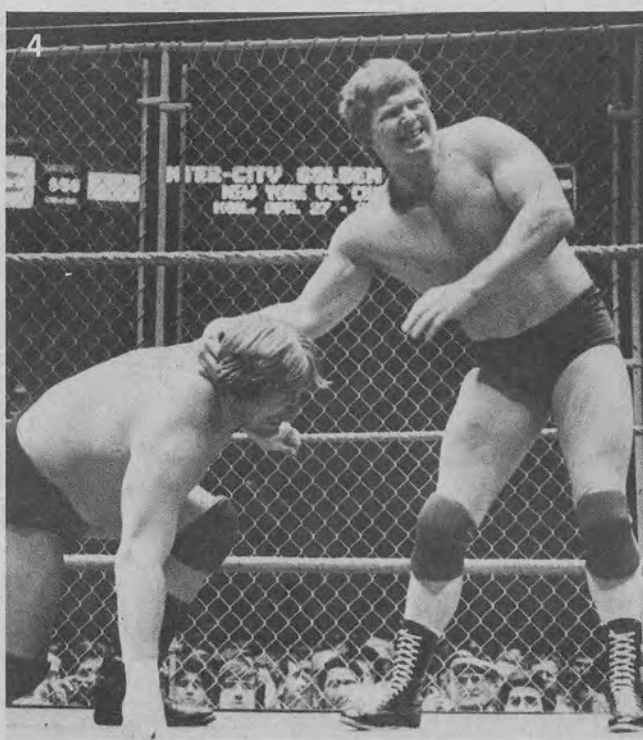
7—Peter Maivia attempts to maneuver the champion off balance.

8—Backlund slams the game Sgt. Slaughter to the canvas.

9—Backlund works on the foot of former WWF champion Ivan Koloff.

10—Pat Patterson, now Backlund's close friend, makes an unsuccessful bid for the title.





- 1—Backlund hooks Hussein Arab's arm and flings the Iranian across the ring.
- 2—Along with Pedro Morales, Backlund tries to capture the WWF tag team belts from the Samoans.
- 3—Even after three meetings in Madison Square Garden, neither Backlund nor King Kong Mosca could establish clear dominance.
- 4—One of Backlund's most noted Cage Matches pitted the champion against Stan Hansen.
- 5—Backlund's second attempt to unite the WWF and NWA titles ended when Harley Race was disqualified for shoving the referee.



DAVID VON ERICH

IT WAS AFTER hours for the gym with the single light burning within. A single light with a single occupant who punched away at the bag hanging from the ceiling as if his very life depended on proving to that lifeless piece of leather that he is without doubt the toughest man in the state.

Ask David Von Erich who is the toughest man in Florida and he will probably give you the same answer the punching bag would.

"I've got a deal with the manager of this gym," said David. "I enjoy working out here after everyone's gone. It's a very quiet, very relaxing atmosphere to work in. Very different from the kind of action you see in the ring, very different and very helpful in preparing me for that action. Like they say, you can't have light without darkness, and you can't have mayhem without serenity. Makes sense, huh?"

David moved away from the punching bag and switched over to the weight machine. It wasn't very long ago when David Von Erich was a newcomer to Florida, a newcomer with a startling surprise in store.

"When I first came to this state," David explained, "I expected to be cheered just like I'd been in other areas. First time I stepped into the ring, I thought that maybe the announcer had made some sort of a mistake, the way the fans booed me. Then it hit me: a good lot of years ago, my dad Fritz came into this state with a chip on his shoulder by the name of Eddie Graham. Well, these here Florida folks liked Graham a lot. What they didn't like was the way they saw my old man work over Graham, so I guess the memories die hard, don't they? That's all right, though, if they want to boo me, I'll give 'em reason to boo me."

The fact that young David Von Erich seems to be enjoying his new-found role as premier object of hate for Florida wrestling fans disturbs David's father Fritz quite a bit.

"It's very much unlike the boy to do what he's doing," admitted Fritz, "but what can I do? I don't own him, he has to live his own life. But I can speak out, and I'll tell you right now, I don't like what I see down there one bit. David is really not himself, and I don't know what he is going to do next. For all I know he'll go crazy in the ring and kill someone next match. He's become quite unpredictable, and he doesn't respond to any criticism or questions from me or his brothers."

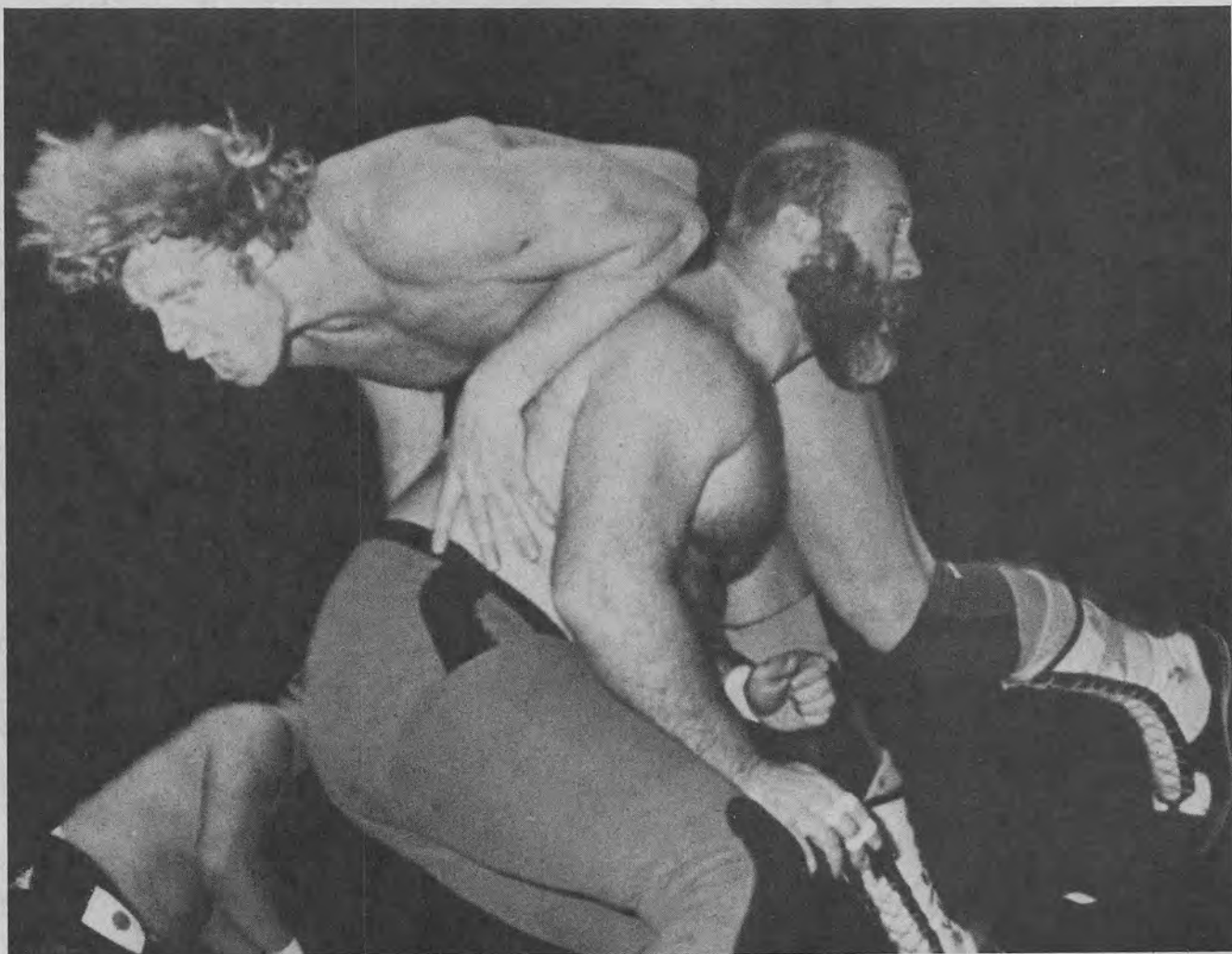
David's brother Kerry added further insight to



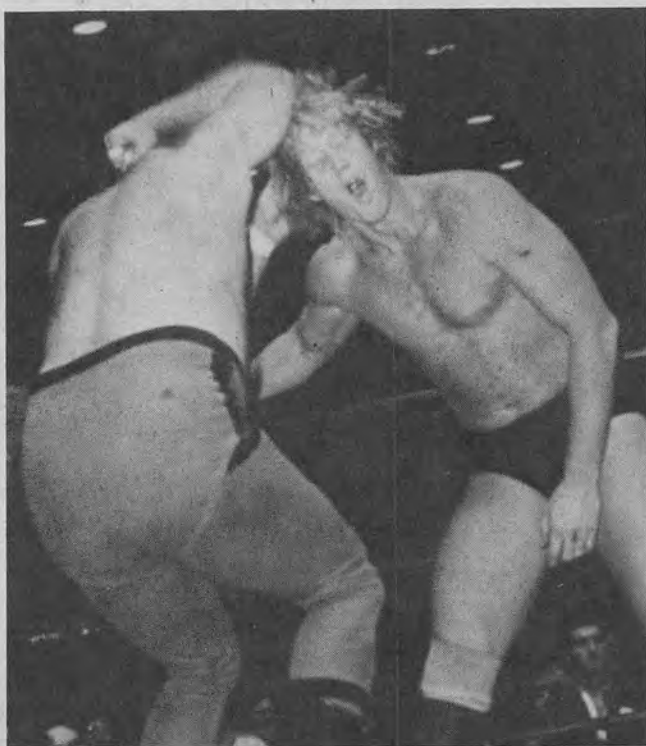
FLORIDA'S TICKING TIME BOMB!

David Von Erich has changed. Where once he was a friendly young man, now he is edgy and tense. But most shocking is what has happened to his wrestling style. He has become more than aggressive, more than mean. He has become vicious

PHOTOS BY PAUL BAUMAN



Bugsy McGraw throws his weight into a shoulder blow, knocking the wind out of David Von Erich (above). In retaliation, Von Erich attempts to throw a shot to McGraw's midsection, but is foiled by a devastating elbowsmash (below).



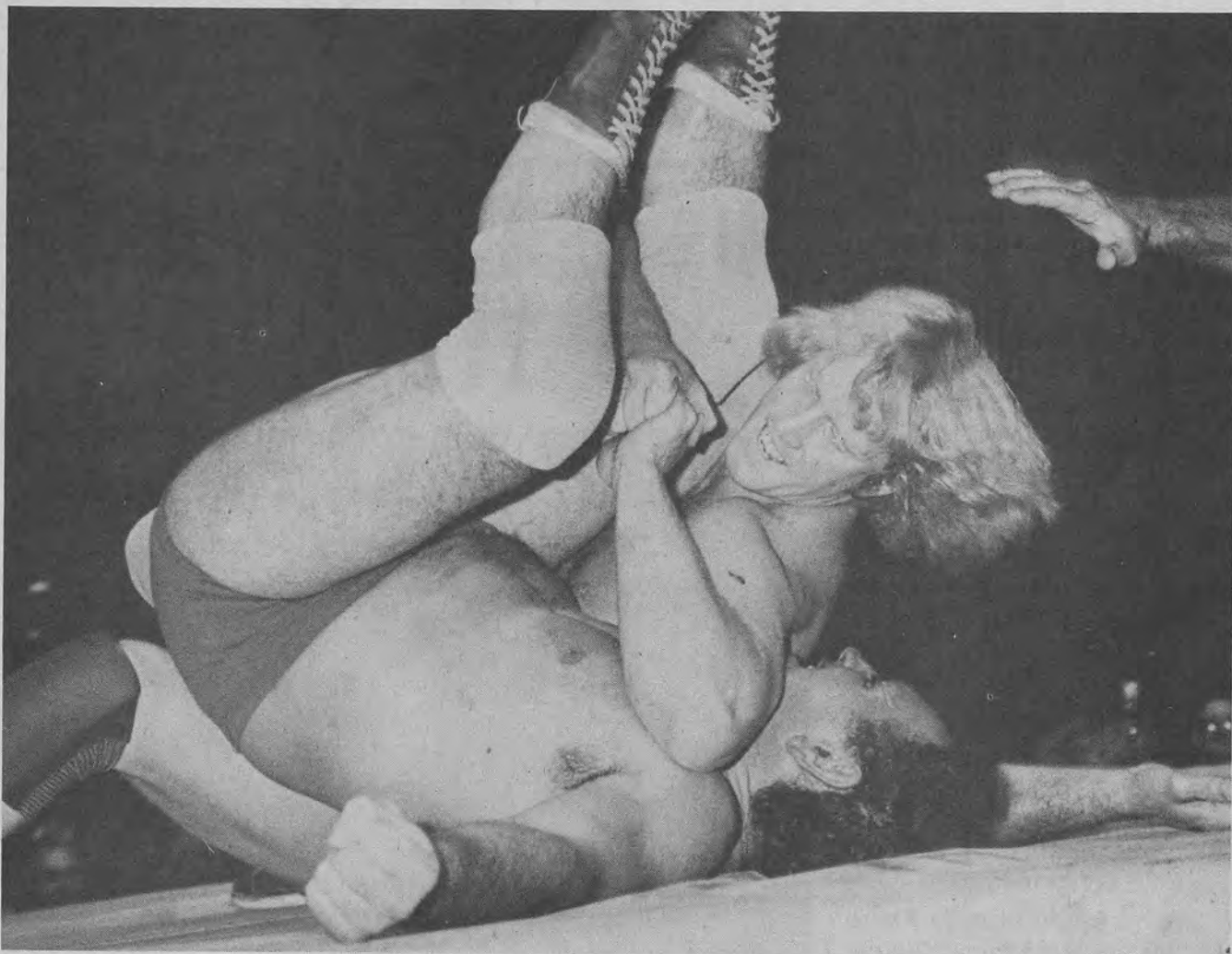
the explosive Von Erich situation.

"It's almost as if David decided he was going to rebel against everything his upbringing aimed to teach him," said Kerry. "His wrestling style has changed subtly but very noticeably over the past few months, and as far as I'm concerned, it's changed for the worse. Not only that, but I've heard that he's hanging around with the Funks down in Florida, and that can only spell disaster if he keeps that kind of behavior up. I know he's my brother, and I'll still stick by him no matter what happens, but I don't how much longer I'll be able to do so if this situation keeps heading in this direction."

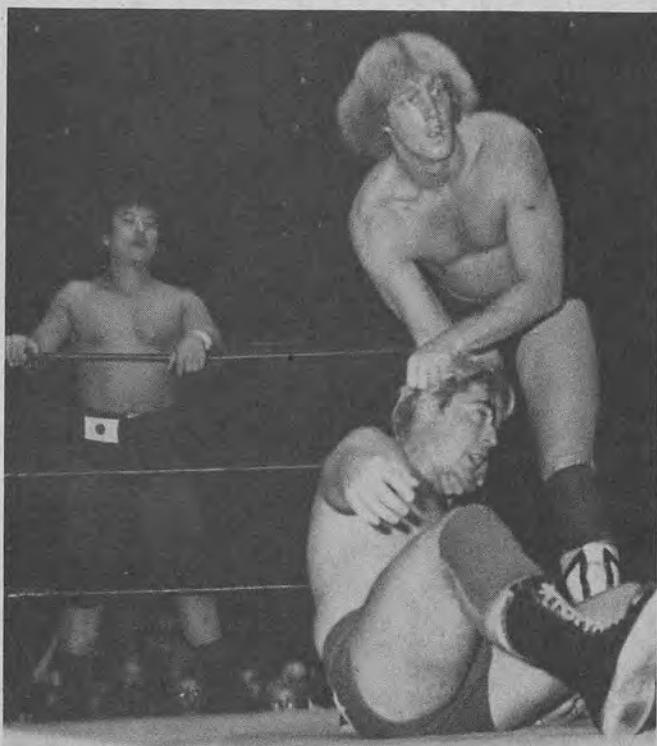
The third of the Von Erich siblings, Kevin, offered a similar reaction.

"Kerry doesn't really talk about it that much, but it's the Funks that are bothering him the most," said Kevin, "and I guess if I'm honest with myself and if my father is honest with himself, then that's what bothers us, too. It's a bad influence, and I'd hate to see David renounce his own family in favor of a group of wrestlers who are about as admirable as a guy that kicks the crutches out from under little old ladies."

The potential is definitely there: a Funk-Von



All that remains for Von Erich's opponent, Abe Jacobs, is the three-count (above). As his tag team partner Mr. Onita looks on, Von Erich displays to Eric Embry the aggressive tactics that has his entire family worried (below).



Erich confrontation could develop into a full scale war to rival even the Hatfields and the McCoys. Should that happen, David Von Erich could very well find himself caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. To which side would he owe his allegiance? To his new comrades in Florida, the Funks? To his family from which he seems to grow ever further? It is not a dilemma to be taken lightly.

"I'm afraid for David," stressed father Fritz. "He's young, and maybe he's just doing this to test himself, to test the strength of his own convictions. I know that when I was his age I went through some difficult years when I was doubting myself, when I had to constantly test myself and be reassured that the course I had chosen was the right one. But if David decides that the Funks are the course he has chosen, and if he believes that course is the right one, I don't know what's going to happen.

"As for now," said Fritz with a heavy sigh, "I just don't know. There are too many variables in this kind of situation. David could do anything at almost anytime. I only hope for the sake of our family, and especially for himself, that he does the right thing." □

FOR MONTHS, fans of WWF wrestling have been disturbed by recent developments within the Federation. The arrival of Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura, campaigns by Greg Valentine against both Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales, and the questionable way in which Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito won the tag team championship from Tony Garea and Rick Martel, have kept the WWF in continuous controversy.

Now it appears as if one of the few bright spots of the last several months—the return of Ivan Putski—will be tainted by an unfortunate inevitability: a clash between Polish Power and Pedro Morales.

Though some might hail a Putski-Morales showdown as one of the classic battles of all time, most fans seem to be concerned about the necessary loser in such a match.

"I'm a big fan of both Pedro Morales and Ivan Putski," wrote Eugene Teemaleska, "and the thought of either of them losing is something that I find too disturbing to consider. When Valentine suplexed Pedro on the floor on T.V., it was Putski, along with Tony Garea and Rick Martel, who prevented him from breaking Pedro's leg with the figure-four. With loyalty like that between these two great men, I don't see how either of them could wrestle the other to the finish. Putski's made his commitment, though, and I suppose he has to go through with it. I, for one, will be very sad to see either of these fantastic superstars emerge from the ring a loser."

Teemaleska's outlook is representative of a large volume of mail that has entered these offices over the past weeks, and the outpouring of fan support for these two grapplers shows

PUTSKI VS. MORALES

THE HEARTBREAKING BATTLE THAT MUST TAKE PLACE





Neither Ivan Putski nor Pedro Morales wish to face each other in the ring, but the painful truth of the matter is that eventually they must. It's only a matter of time before two astounding wrestling careers, and the fate of the Intercontinental belt, will be decided by a match nobody wants



Ivan Putski worked his way up to the number-one contender's position for the Intercontinental belt with victories over such stars as King Kong Mosca (above), but he did not expect Pedro Morales to take the belt from Magnificent Muraco (bottom left). A match between Putski and Morales seems inevitable.



no signs of abating.

The "commitment" that Teemaleska referred to in his letter was the fact that when Ivan Putski signed the contracts to return to the WWF, Magnificent Muraco was the Intercontinental champion. Putski's return was based in large part on a desire to oust Muraco from the Intercontinental seat, and perhaps even from the WWF itself.

As Putski wrestled match after match intent on working his way up to the number-one

(Continued on page 62)

Our Panel Of Medical Experts Fears



DUSTY RHODES' NEXT MATCH MAY LEAVE HIM CRIPPLED

WHEN RIC FLAIR took the NWA title from Dusty Rhodes, it appeared as if Rhodes may have injured more than just his pride.

The night before that title match, Dusty's leg was injured by Assassin #1 and Bobby Jagers. Flair was well aware of this fact, and concentrated his attack on that leg throughout the match.

Since then, rumors have been circulating throughout the wrestling community regarding Rhodes' health and his ability to wrestle up to his usual standards.

The only substantiation of these rumors we were able to unearth was a statement from within the Rhodes camp confirming that Rhodes' leg was in fact bothering him, but that it did not affect

his wrestling.

Wishing to examine the situation for ourselves, *The Wrestler* flew three medical experts to St. Louis for a rematch between Dusty and Flair. After viewing the match, our panel convened and discussed the events it had witnessed.

Before presenting an edited version of that panel discussion, we

would like to introduce the experts:

Dr. Allen Wyck of the Northeast Center for Athletic Physiology in Rochester, New York. Dr. Wyck has enjoyed a long association with *The Wrestler*, most recently reporting on Andre the Giant's leg injury in our November 1981 issue.

Dr. Frederick Grinder and Dr. Esteban Rivera both practice at the West Coast Clinic for Physical Therapy in Los Angeles, California. This is their first association with our magazine, but their services were secured at the suggestion of Dr. Wyck. Their discussion follows:

Dr. Wyck: Well, gentlemen, it didn't look to be a very good night for Dusty, did it?

Dr. Grinder: That's the understatement of the year, Allen. Anytime a guy's carried out of the ring it's not a good night for him.

Dr. Rivera: Well, that point aside, I think . . .

Dr. Grinder: Why put that point aside?

Dr. Rivera: Because the fact that he was taken out on a stretcher only means that he won't be 100 percent in his next match. We're here to assess his performance tonight.

Dr. Wyck: Well, his performance couldn't be termed very good if it resulted in him being unable to walk out on his own two feet.

Dr. Grinder: Exactly. What I saw out there leads me to believe that Dusty was not in proper physical shape when he first entered the ring tonight. It's likely that the main problem was his leg, for he seemed to be favoring it slightly. He seemed to be tentative in his maneuvers all night.

Dr. Rivera: Okay, so let's go back to that other point. What does this mean for Dusty's next match? How much is he actually risking by going into the ring again after what Flair did to him tonight?

(Continued on page 56)



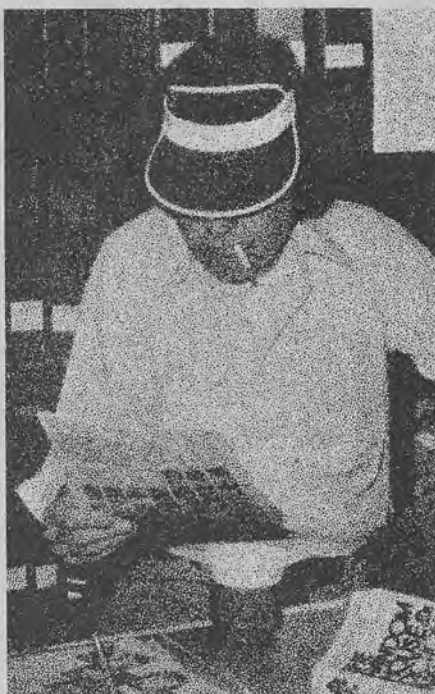
To the untrained eye, Dusty Rhodes seems to have fully recovered from the leg injury that cost him the NWA title. Medical experts, however, view the matter differently. Three of the world's top sports physicians are in agreement that if Dusty doesn't take some time off, his career could be in serious jeopardy

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



Rhodes cannot maneuver to the ropes (top) nor gain the leverage to win a test of strength (above) because of his weakened leg. Dusty has to be carried back to the dressing room after the match (opposite left).

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

November 1971 Fred Blassie vs. John Tolos

CLASSY FRED BLASSIE was on a hell of a rampage in those days. The King of Men wouldn't take any guff from any pencil-necked geek, and he was riding high as holder of the Americas' championship.

One grappler did get under Freddie's skin: John Tolos. As you can see by the photo, though, Blassie returned the favor by getting under Tolos' skin . . . with his teeth. For all you youngsters who only know Blassie as manager of some of the most twisted men ever to grace the squared circle, let it be known that this was Blassie's classic maneuver. In the Orient, Blassie was known as "The Vampire" because he used his teeth the way Adrian Adonis uses the sleeperhold. Only thing is, the sleeperhold isn't that messy.

Tolos won the Americas' championship from Blassie. Both men were gunning for the "Wrestler of the Year" trophy, an award which was to be presented shortly after the



Referee Johnny Dugan makes a vain attempt to prevent Fred Blassie from devouring John Tolos.

Americas' match. Well, Tolos thought he was a sure-fire shoo-in, but it was not to be.

When the presentation ceremony came along, it was former Americas' champ Blassie who walked away with the honors, and not arch-rival Tolos. As Blassie made his acceptance speech, Tolos

crept over to a doctor's bag that was carelessly left open, pulled out a can of Monsel's powder, and unloaded it in Blassie's face.

Monsel's powder? Great stuff. Takes care of infections like there's no tomorrow. Ideal for sterilizing wounds, but keep it away from the eyes! Iodine's nice for wounds, too, but you wouldn't want to mistake it for mouthwash.

The doctor's report noted severe corneal burns in Blassie's left eye and minor burns in the right eye. For a time, Blassie was totally blind in the left eye, and it was doubtful whether he would wrestle again.

At the time, Blassie was surprisingly placid towards Tolos: "I've been told before that I could never wrestle again. In '64 I had a kidney ailment that had me down to 100 pounds. Can you imagine me 100 pounds? Not only did they tell me I'd never wrestle again, they said I'd die. But I



As Blassie accepts the award honoring him as 1971's Wrestler of the Year, a jealous John Tolos throws a handful of toxic Monsel's Powder into his face (above). Blassie yearned for the day when the bandage would be removed from his eyes (below). Tolos would soon find out the meaning of revenge.



beat it. I fooled them all and came back. I'll come back again."

Then, the anger towards Tolos began to grow . . .

"It may take time," Blassie growled, "but as long as I have breath in my body, as long as I have two arms, and two legs, I

will get even with Tolos. Just wait until this bandage comes off. I'll get my revenge."

He did, too. Blassie got his revenge and, like everything else he did in those days, he really sunk his teeth into it. Blassie was like that, you know? It's a shame, really,

because none of the goons he manages now can hold a candle to what Classy Blassie was during his glory days.

Maybe that's why they call them the good old days. These sure don't seem like 'em, and I don't care *what* you say 10 or 20 years down the line. □

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 8)

BORING BACKLUND

Being a fan of WWF wrestling for a long time, I must now say that many fans are finally getting bored of the reign of Bob Backlund. Mr. Backlund has received the majority of print in your fine magazine compared to the rest of the WWF wrestlers.

Recently, Bob has been disqualified many times in title defenses in which he possibly



Bob Backlund, who has retained his WWF title in several recent outings by disqualifications, should relinquish his belt and move to another area, writes Rich Kerin.

might have lost his belt, but due to technicalities, retained his title. Asking many fans at matches, they feel that for the good of the Federation, Bob Backlund should relinquish his title and work towards some new goals, possibly the NWA or AWA title. I, unfortunately, must agree.

RICH KERIN
Melville, NY



BLASSIE NOT CLASSY

I just read the article that Fred Blassie wrote pertaining to Andre the Giant and what he did to *poor* Killer Khan. I say, whatever Khan got he deserved.

Who is Fred Blassie to talk about respect? I doubt that he even knows the meaning of the word. I suppose Blassie calls respect what his wrestlers do to their opponents? For example, kicking a man when he's down or resorting to excessive sadism? How about the time when Adrian Adonis put the sleeper on his opponent, then refused to wake him up? Does Blassie call that wrestling or respect? What does Blassie call it when he pokes one of the wrestlers with his cane? How about when he holds on to a wrestler's trunks or leg so that his wrestler can take advantage of an opponent? It is disgusting and a

Reader Dorothy Cleland does not find anything classy about Fred Blassie. Cleland points out that Blassie often uses his cane to help his already-sadistic wrestlers, such as Killer Khan (above).

disgrace to the profession of wrestling.

Why are managers like Blassie, Albano, or Grand Wizard allowed at ringside during a match? I think managers should be made to stay away from the ring during a match. I would also like to see two referees for tag team matches.

What is so classy about Blassie? What is so grand about the Wizard? What is Albano captain of?

Blassie, Albano, Wizard: all three of you are disgusting. And so are those freaks that you call wrestlers. I think you should all be banned from wrestling.

DOROTHY CLELAND
Cortland, NY

Q&A

(Continued from Page 25)



up with, as long as whoever it is is ready to wipe the Andersons off the face of the map. Anybody willing to help me out in that way can give me a call anytime. They call me Ray "The Crippler" Stevens, the people that have any sense, that is, and I'm going to show the Andersons why they call me that. They'll learn the reasons why first hand, and I guarantee you they won't like those reasons one bit.

Q: If you stay with Johnny Weaver, do you think the pair of you have what it takes to get the NWA belts?

A: Frankly, I couldn't give a damn about the belts right now. All I'm interested in is avenging myself for the way I was treated by Ole

Stevens says he would even consider teaming with Dusty Rhodes, a man with whom he has feuded over the years. "The Crippler" desperately wants to cause the Andersons harm.

when I wrestled with him. Johnny Weaver says he can help me with that, so we're teaming up against the Andersons. If we can pick up the tag team championship belts in the bargain, well, that will make the revenge all the sweeter.

Q: You sound pretty determined.

A: I haven't even begun.

Q: Well, thanks for joining us on Q & A.

A: No problem. All the problems are the Andersons'. See you in the hospital Ole, if you've learned enough to be able to read this! Hahahaha! ☐

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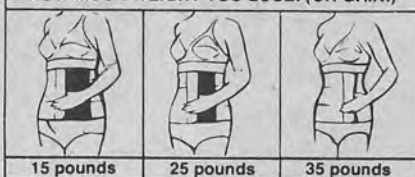


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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 10)



Tiger Mask is given the WWF junior heavyweight championship belt following a tournament in Japan (above). Crusher Blackwell (opposite right) thinks his new appearance is chic.

flying headscissors and suplexes with the champion. Although the bout ended with Backlund cut too badly to continue, the champion also agreed that Adonis "is a fine scientific grappler, when he wants to be."

Jake "The Snake" Roberts won Asheville, North Carolina's Cadillac tournament... Tiger Mask is the name of the colorful wrestler from Japan who now holds the WWF junior heavyweight championship. The title, previously held by Tatsumi Fujinami, was vacated when Fujinami decided to compete in the heavyweight ranks. He is now after the WWF belt held by Bob Backlund.

Super Destroyer and Masked Superstar used every dirty trick they knew to take the Georgia national tag team belts from the father-and-son combination of Bob and Brad Armstrong. By the way, Bob Armstrong has demanded a series of bouts against Roddy Piper. Piper has been very critical about the way Bob manages his son's career. The senior Armstrong feels his family's business is no concern of Piper's.

Black Gordman is headed to the WWF... Eddy Mansfield, now in the Carolinas, has reverted to his old rulebreaking ways... Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie has promised his friend, Crusher Blackwell, a harem and a golden Cadillac if they win

the AWA tag belts from Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell. "Just think," Blackwell says, "me and Sheik and our harems. We'll be



national heroes in Iraq!"

Fans in Virginia, usually in the corner of NWA champion Ric Flair, are now questioning their allegiance after Flair's bout against Blackjack Mulligan Jr. Flair used a large amount of illegal tactics to retain his belt. He has no regrets, either. "I won," he pointed out. "That's all that counts."

Dory Funk Jr. is the new International champion, having won the title in Japan... Michael Hayes has grown a beard. According to the girls in the Georgia area, it's made him even sexier... Kevin Sullivan has declared war on another ex-friend and tag team partner, popular Jim Garvin.

Jealousy could cause a very unusual match to come off. Fred Blassie, manager of Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura, says he wants any and all titles in 1982—including the WWF belts held by manager Captain Lou Albano and his men, Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito. "We don't care which pencil-neck geeks we rassle!" exclaims Blassie. "We just want the belts!"

That's all for now. See you at the matches! ☐

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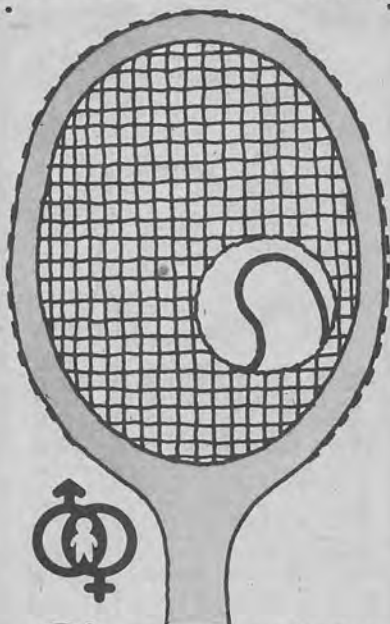
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 14)



Though Dusty played baseball for a short time in the minor leagues, he is not to be confused with the Dusty Rhodes who played for the Giants in the 1950s. The American Dream simply prefers hitting people to baseballs.

champion Superstar Graham, and he was right. Does Bruno have any idea who will be the man to beat Backlund?"—David Bitet, Dix Hills, NY

A: Bruno Sammartino replies: "I don't know, David, doggone it, there are so many good men in the WWF right now, it's almost anybody's guess who could come out on top. Larry Zbyszko, of course, has a shot at it, and I wouldn't count men like Greg Valentine or Adrian Adonis out of the running. There's too much talent there, though, and I'm not going to go out on a limb yet and make a prediction... not yet, anyway."

Q: "Could you ask Ric Flair what he is going to do about Ole and Gene Anderson now that he is world champion?"—Kevin Totherow, Clover, SC

A: "Listen, Kevin, it's not what I'm going to do about the Andersons," says Flair, "but what they intend to do about

me. I'm the champion, and I don't have to worry about anything except my title challenges. If they want to try to unseat me, then I'll answer to them. But I don't think they'll like what I have to say."

Q: "I read in my Guinness book of world records that the famous Dusty Rhodes was a baseball player. Is this true?"—Travis Henson, Boone, NC

A: According to *The Wrestler's* historian-in-residence Steve Farhood, a Dusty Rhodes played for the New York Giants from 1952 through 1957, and for San Francisco in 1959. Rhodes was a home run star in the 1954 World Series where New York swept four games from Cleveland, hitting two powerhouse drives for key runs in the first two games. Dusty Rhodes the wrestler, however, is not Dusty Rhodes the baseball player. □

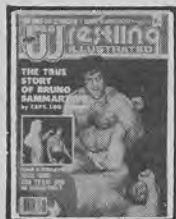
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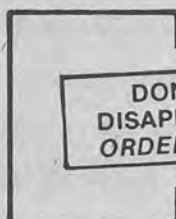


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THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY

(Continued from Page 35)



Backlund takes care of himself by spending most of his free time in the gymnasium (above). And he is taken care of by Arnold Skoaland, one of the most brilliant wrestling minds of our generation (below).



February 20, before a sellout crowd at Madison Square Garden, Backlund pinned Graham in 14:51 to become the new WWF champ.

For Backlund, there was no rest. Only three days after claiming the belt, he went up against then-NWA champion Harley Race in an effort to unify the titles. The memories of the Missouri title match were still fresh, and Backlund still remembers this

draw as one of his most difficult matches to date.

For all his experience within the squared circle, however, Backlund exuded an aura of innocence, a quality which many fans maintain is his most admirable. It was the very quality which led to his being tagged as "The All-American Boy." But for those who hated him, it led to countless taunts of "Howdy Doody Backlund."

There is no way to adequately explain the caliber of performance in the ring that Backlund has exhibited during his tenure as champion, except perhaps to offer a list of those grapplers who have challenged the title and failed: Sgt. Slaughter, Stan Hansen, Killer Khan, Greg Valentine, King Kong Mosca, George "The Animal" Steele, Magnificent Muraco, Jesse Ventura, and Adrian Adonis.

Reading like a who's who of wrestling, the above list is far from complete. The point is clear, however. Bob Backlund has defended his title against the most brutal and savage men in all of wrestling—and has maintained his championship.

As he enters his fourth year as champion, Bob Backlund can no longer be considered simply a boy in a man's game. His time as champion comprises just about half of his entire professional career, an astounding feat by any standards. There are dozens of wrestlers who have been in the sport twice as long as Backlund who have never come close to the title, a fact which further amplifies his achievement.

Yet with experience comes criticism, and of late the critics have been harsh. Accusations that Backlund's title is protected by referees who have been paid off abound, but conclusive proof has yet to be offered.

The championship and the criticism. Backlund has been through it all, and still he is going strong. No longer is he seen as a greenhorn youngster or an aberration of a champion, a kid whose time came too soon. Backlund commands respect, now, from his enemies as well as his fans.

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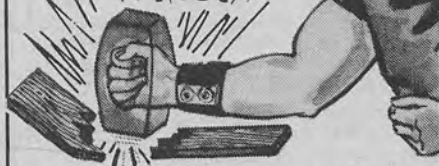
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DUSTY RHODES

(Continued from Page 45)

Dr. Wyck: What do you think?
Dr. Rivera: I can't believe that he would be foolish enough to wrestle again without first taking some time off to recuperate. He's an athlete, he ought to know something like that instinctively.

Dr. Wyck: Fine, but suppose he doesn't realize this? Suppose he decides to go right ahead and wrestle as if nothing happened? Frankly, I'm worried. Considering the shape he is in now, he could wind up crippled for life!



Flair leaps off the turnbuckles, slamming a fist into Rhodes' shoulder blade (above). Note how Dusty's leg buckles as he backflips the champion (below). Three prominent doctors are in agreement that Rhodes must take some time off to let his leg heal properly. Dusty Rhodes is a stubborn man, however.





Battling both his own handicap and one of the greatest wrestlers alive today, Dusty was at an insurmountable disadvantage.

Dr. Grinder: If not for life, then certainly the injury he would suffer would take an inordinately long time to heal. I agree with Esteban, he should have instinct enough to stay out of the ring for a while. If he wrestles, he's risking a lot more than simply losing the match. Without the proper physical defenses at peak efficiency, he's opening himself up to a great variety of potential injuries.

Dr. Rivera: The leg alone would be reason enough to keep out of action for at least six weeks or so, but if the physical instability is reflected in other limbs and parts of the body, the risk is to much more than simply the leg.

Dr. Wyck: I believe that we are all in agreement, then, that Dusty Rhodes ought not to wrestle until he is completely recovered from this injury.

Dr. Rivera: Absolutely.

Dr. Grinder: Without a doubt.

Dr. Wyck: Well, then, I suppose all we could do now is present Dusty with our findings and hope he follows our suggestion. We certainly can't force him to stay out of the ring, but at least we can hope he'll do what's right for himself in the long run. ☐

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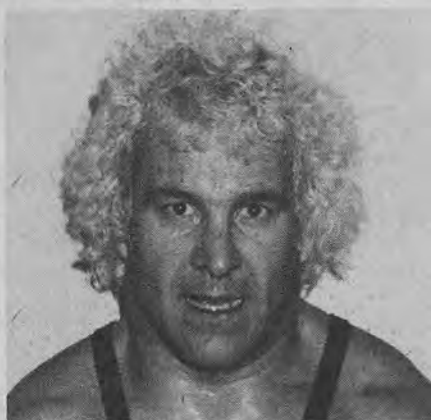
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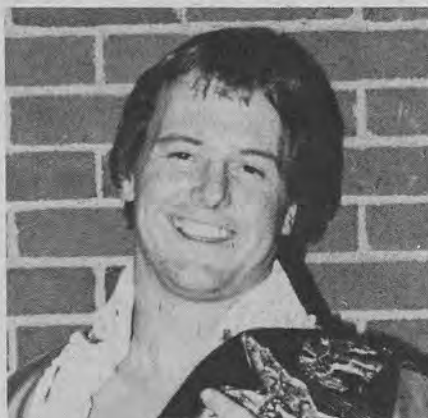
THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

(Continued from Page 18)



THUMBS DOWN to Ken Patera: Perhaps the most despicable tag team in wrestling is Ken Patera and Bobby Duncum, managed by Bobby Heenan. The formation of the team and its savage tactics are both due to Patera's work. The opponents who have been hospitalized would agree that there is no more evil tag team in wrestling.

THUMBS UP to Bruiser: Since winning the Missouri title, this remarkable veteran has defended it with skill and integrity. He has set an example for all of wrestling as to what a title reign should be.



THUMBS DOWN to Roddy Piper: Going into Georgia supposedly as a color commentator on *Georgia Championship Wrestling*, Piper has already goaded Bob Armstrong into a match and substituted for the banned Gary Hart as the Great Kabuki's manager. Piper can never again be trusted as an unbiased observer.

THUMBS UP to Tommy Rich: Though he has suffered some of the most heartbreaking losses imaginable, Rich remains a fine athlete and gentleman. Despite setbacks, he has remained true to the principles of scientific wrestling.



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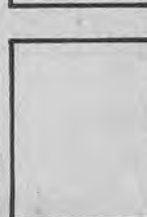
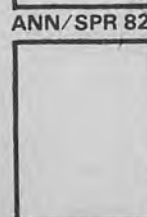
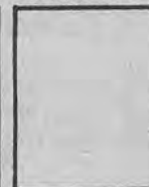
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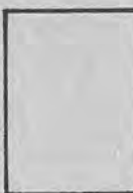
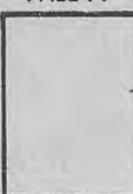
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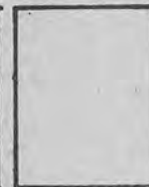
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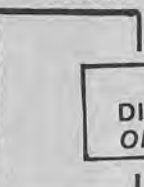
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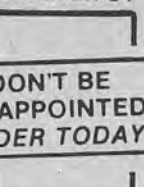
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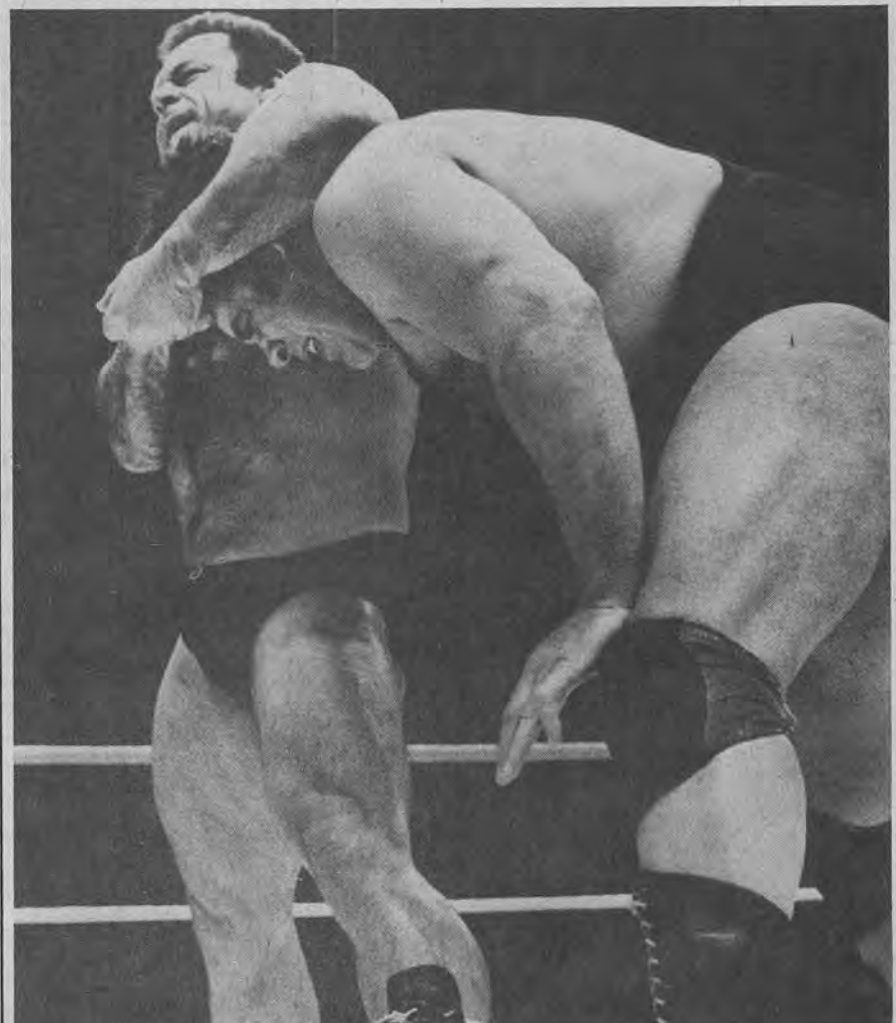
(Continued from Page 43)



contender's spot, Pedro Morales entered the picture. In a bloody melee, Morales regained the Intercontinental title that Muraco had taken from him months earlier. At that moment Ivan Putski was forced to reevaluate his own situation.

"I was very happy to see that Pedro won back the belt," Putski told *The Wrestler*, "and it was good that he gave Muraco what he had coming to him. It is unfortunate that it puts me into a bad situation, however.

"I am by contract obligated to continue in my work for the Intercontinental belt," Putski continued, "but I feel that if I had to enter into the ring with my friend Pedro Morales, while it would be a very good match, it





Morales has defended his Intercontinental championship primarily against rulebreakers. Pedro was instrumental in forcing Sgt. Slaughter (above and opposite left) out of the WWF during his first reign as champion. Putski (holding Mosca in a headlock) came into the WWF between Morales' reigns, while Magnificent Muraco was champion. Will these two good friends have to wage war against each other?

would be difficult for me to do what I have to do to beat him. I don't think I would like having to unleash my Polish Power on Pedro, and I hope I never have to. Still, a man has to do what he has to do. I'll have to worry about that when the time comes around."

Pedro Morales was relaxing at home when we contacted him for his reaction to this situation.

"You know me, and you know that I am ready for any kind of action, baby," said Morales, "but I don't know if I am ready for *that* kind of action, you know what I'm saying?

"I am ready for Valentine, any time, anywhere," screamed Morales, still furious about Valentine's recent insults and

taunts. "I am ready for any one of these scum buckets that wants to try to take away my title. But I am not ready for having to defend my title against a good friend like Ivan Putski, you know what I am saying? In a match like that, even the winner is a loser. I know what Ivan is saying, and I know that if it ever happens, we both are going to be ready to do what we have to do. I think we are just going to have to wait to see what happens."

In the meantime, Morales continues to successfully defend his title against every challenger that comes along, while Ivan Putski continues to grow stronger as a major contender for that title.

Two friends are on a collision course with each other. When they finally meet, the impact will be felt all through the WWF. The most disheartening fact about it all is that neither man will truly be able to claim that he is the winner. Indeed, after the match is over and the damage assessed, perhaps the biggest losers of all will be the fans. □

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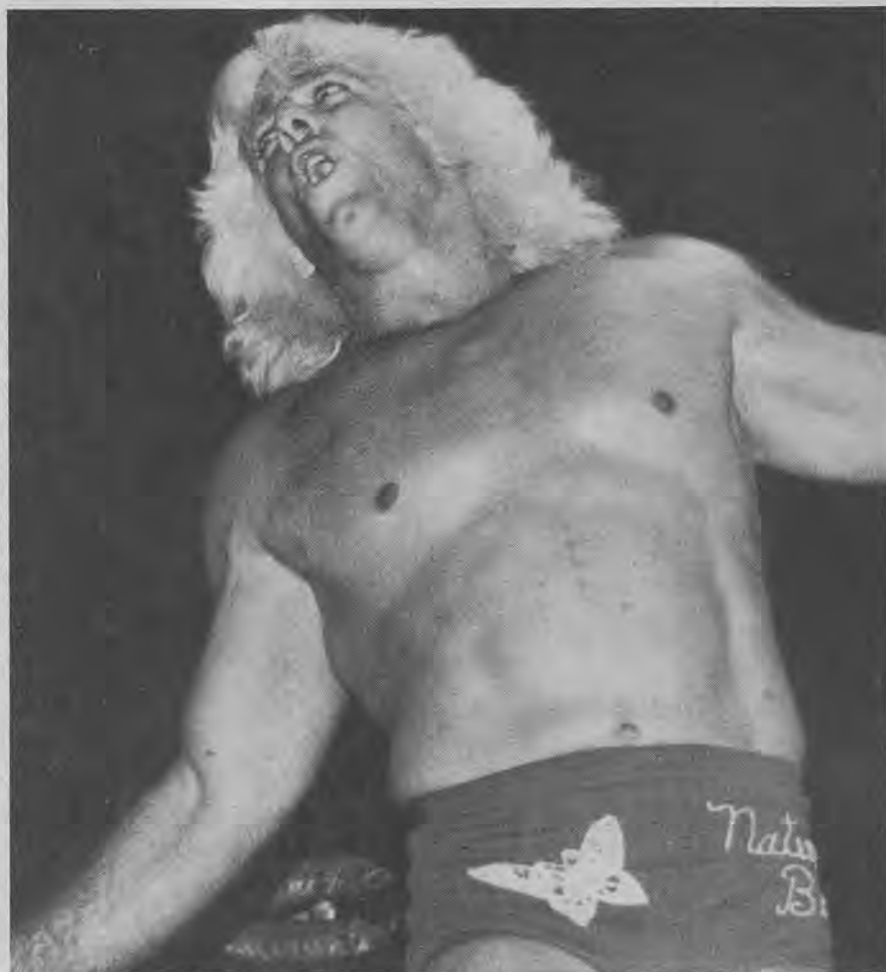
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Ric Flair stands exhaustedly in the ring after receiving a disqualification verdict over Ole Anderson. Ole was disqualified when he received outside help from his brother Gene.

Unfortunately, Bockwinkel retained the title on the technicality.

In other bouts: Ken Patera and Bobby Duncum cheated their way past Hulk Hogan and Tito Santana . . . Jim Brunzell defeated Rene Goulet . . . Buck Zumhofe won over Tony Leone.

ROANOKE, VA—Correspondent: Rhonda Jenkins—It was Ric Flair and Ole Anderson in the main event, with Flair's NWA title on the line. From the start, Flair was ready for Ole. The bell sounded and both men went at each other with intense hatred. Flair was about to put the figure-four on Ole, but Ole kicked Flair below the midsection. Flair rolled around the ring in pain, but quickly recovered and fired back at Ole. Flair got a little too close to

the ropes where Gene Anderson tripped him. Flair got Ole into the corner and Gene came into the ring behind Flair, adding his own sadistic abuse to the match. Ole was disqualified.

In other bouts: Blackjack Mulligan Jr. won by disqualification over Sgt. Slaughter . . . Jimmy Valiant downed Ivan Koloff.

SHREVEPORT, LA—Correspondent: Mark Scrimshaw—Ted DiBiase defended the North American heavyweight title against one-time friend Paul Orndorff at the Municipal Auditorium. The battle continuously changed hands, although Orndorff fled the ring four times. Orndorff angered DiBiase just a little bit too much, however, at which point Ted moved in to apply

the figure-four leglock. Orndorff proved his knowledge of being able to reverse Ted's lock, but was disqualified for holding onto the ropes during the reversal.

In other bouts: Hussein "Iron Sheik" Arab fled the torture of "Precious" Paul Ellering . . . Brian Blair defeated Ed Wiskowski . . . Bob Orton Jr. received a destructive beating from Mike George.

UNIONDALE, NY—Correspondent: Rich Kerin—The sizzling feud between Tony Atlas and Magnificent Muraco was brought into a 15-foot high steel cage. Action moved at a fast and furious pace with neither man



Tony Atlas is unmarked following his Cage Match at the Nassau Coliseum. His opponent, Magnificent Muraco, was not as fortunate.

gaining the early advantage. With stunning moves, Atlas began an attack which bloodied the weakened and beaten Muraco. Atlas walked out of the cage door to the plaudits of the crowd.

In other bouts: Pat Patterson pummeled King Kong Mosca . . . Greg Valentine easily disposed of Dominic DeNucci . . . Pedro Morales flattened Masked Executioner. ☐

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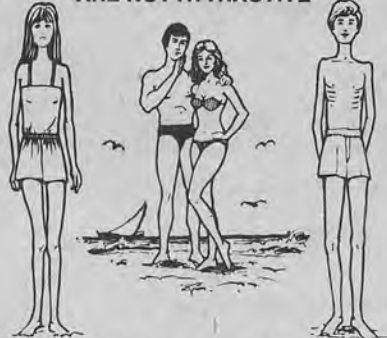
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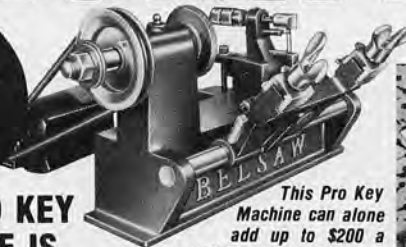
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